



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

Update



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers & Laboratories

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RE: UPDATE ON GUIDANCE for 2009 Influenza Season
Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

DATE: September 1, 2009

Providers should begin vaccinating their patients as soon as they have influenza vaccine and should continue to offer vaccine to their patients into next year.

The 2009 seasonal influenza recommendations include this update:

- Annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months--18 years should begin as soon as the 2009--10 influenza vaccine is available. Annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months--4 years (59 months) and older children with conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza should continue to be a primary focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routinely vaccinating all children.

Additional information regarding the H1N1 vaccine will be available in future communications. When H1N1 vaccine is first available, ACIP recommends that programs and providers administer vaccine to persons in the following five target groups (order of target groups does not indicate priority): pregnant women; persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers); health-care and emergency medical services personnel; persons aged 6 months--24 years; and persons aged 25--64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

If the supply of the vaccine initially available is not adequate to meet demand for vaccination among the five target groups listed above, ACIP recommends that the following subset of the initial target groups receive priority for vaccination until vaccine availability increases (order of target groups does not indicate priority): pregnant women; persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers); health-care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material; children aged 6 months--4 years; and children and adolescents aged 5--18 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.