

I wanted to provide you the most current information on H1N1 vaccine and its distribution.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has developed a list of target groups for initial vaccination of the H1N1 vaccine. However, because the vaccine availability will not initially meet that demand, efforts will be made to first immunize the following subgroup:

- Pregnant women.
- Children 6 months to 4 years old.
- People who live with or care for infants less than 6 months old.
- Health care workers with direct patient care.
- Children 5-18 years old with chronic medical conditions.

Because our EMS providers met the criteria of health care workers, the Gilbert Fire Department was provided the opportunity to request the H1N1 Influenza vaccine. We have registered and submitted a vaccine order. However, the **ultimate prioritization and delivery of the vaccine supply will be managed by the Maricopa County Public Health Department.** As soon as we receive notification of vaccine delivery, I will let you know. It will likely be several weeks.

There are two preparations of the H1N1 vaccine. One is an inactivated vaccine (containing fragments of killed influenza virus) given intramuscular as an injection. The other type of flu vaccine is a nasal spray flu vaccine called LAIV which stands for live attenuated influenza vaccine, which is made with a live, weakened virus that does not cause flu. LAIV is approved for use in healthy people 2-49 years of age. This vaccine is *not* recommended for certain groups including pregnant women, those with long term health problems, or children 5 years or younger with asthma.

I have attached information about each type of preparation, but this information is specific to seasonal flu strains not H1N1. When the specific vaccine information statements for H1N1 are released I will forward that information (the information will be similar). Both preparations have their own benefits and limiting factors. I would encourage you to read the information and be familiar with both. It is likely that we will have access to the active nasal spray preparation first.

In addition, if you have young children at home or adults that meet the above criteria, I encourage you to speak with your pediatrician, family practice physician or obstetrician immediately to see if they have registered to receive vaccine. If you are interested in having family members that meet the above criteria vaccinated but have difficulty locating it, please send me an email. I will track those that want it but are unable to locate it.

Please do not overlook that pregnant women are at high risk for H1N1 influenza complications. I have attached information about this specific group. Please share this information with family and friends, it is important information to understand and share!

Pregnant women information

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/pregnant_qa.htm

Live attenuated nasal spray vaccine

<http://answers.flu.gov/questions/4503>

<http://answers.flu.gov/questions/4502>