

## **Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine**

***All information given here is subject to change.***

### **Availability**

Five manufacturers are producing vaccine in the United States. Vaccine is currently in clinical trials. Details such as the number of doses needed, time frame for availability, and efficacy are not available now.

The best estimate, subject to change, is that Arkansas will receive its first shipment of approximately 200,000 doses in late October and will receive additional shipments later.

### **Distribution**

Vaccine will be shipped directly to healthcare providers who have registered with the Arkansas Department of Health to receive it. The requirements, system for distribution and reporting requirements will be similar to the Vaccines for Children program. Providers can find more information about vaccine distribution and can pre register to receive it here:

[http://www.healthyarkansas.com/news/H1N1\\_Pre-Reg\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.healthyarkansas.com/news/H1N1_Pre-Reg_Letter.pdf). Everyone who pre-registers will receive email updates as more information becomes available.

The maximum number of recipients nationally will be about 90,000; we do not know how many Arkansas will be allowed, but estimate that it will be 1,012, but could be increased if other areas do not utilize their full allocations.

### **Priority Groups for Vaccination**

Vaccination efforts are designed to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1. The key populations include those who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with novel H1N1, and those who could infect young infants. The following groups should be vaccinated:

- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- health care and emergency medical services personnel
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age
- people from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

If quantities of vaccine available are insufficient to permit vaccination of all members of the groups listed above who wish to be vaccinated, the following groups should be vaccinated first:

- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- children 6 months through 4 years of age
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions

It is expected that there will eventually be enough vaccine to immunize everyone who wishes to be immunized.