



On CDC and ACIP Recommendations for H1N1 Vaccinations

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Each month, Dr. Nahum Kovalski reviews a handful of abstracts from, or relevant to, urgent care practices and practitioners. For the full reports, go to the source cited under each title.

H1N1 Update: CDC Recommends Seasonal Flu Vaccination for Children Over 6 Months

Key point: Get vaccinated!

Citation: Fiore AE, Shay DK, Broder K, et al. Prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccines. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2009. *MMWR*. July 24, 2009;58(Early Release):1-52. Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/r158e0724a1.htm

In contrast to last year, when seasonal flu shots for those between 6 months and 18 years of age were “encouraged,” this season it’s a “full-out recommendation,” according to Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the CDC’s center for immunization.

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) simultaneously released its recommendations for seasonal influenza online in *MMWR*.

The agency also recommends “strongly” that healthcare workers receive the seasonal vaccine.

The ACIP will make recommendations for which groups should have priority for receiving H1N1 vaccine, which, according to Schuchat, will be available in “reasonably large numbers of doses” by mid-October. ■



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ACIP Recommends Five Groups as Priority Targets for H1N1 Vaccination

Key point: Recommended populations encompass half the U.S. population.

Citation: CDC advisors make recommendations for use of vaccine against novel H1N1. Press release. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 29, 2009. Available at: www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2009/ro90729b.htm.

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that the following five groups be targeted to receive H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available:

- pregnant women
- household contacts of infants under 6 months
- healthcare and emergency-services workers
- young people between 6 months and 24 years of age
- non-elderly adults with underlying risk conditions, such as diabetes and chronic lung disease.

The five groups comprise about 160 million people, about half the U.S. population.

People over 65 have the lowest priority.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, who directs the CDC’s center for immunization, said at a press conference that people over 65 received ACIP’s lowest priority for H1N1 vaccination because the virus “has, to a large extent, spared that population.”

She emphasized, however, the importance of ensuring that the elderly receive the seasonal flu vaccine. ■