

Priority Groups Recommended to Receive the H1N1 (Swine) Flu Vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a panel made up of medical and public health experts, recommends several groups receive the H1N1(Swine) flu vaccine as soon as possible:



- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated.
- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants by “cocooning” them from the virus.
- **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism among healthcare professionals could reduce healthcare system capacity.
- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age**
Children from 6 months through 18 years of age because there have been many cases of H1N1 (Swine) flu in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread.
Young adults 19 through 24 years of age because there have been many cases of H1N1 (Swine) flu in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population.
- **Persons aged 25 through 64 years** who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

