



Immunization Management Consultancy
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IMMUNIZATION BULLETIN

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT FLU SEASON

Background: The H1N1 pandemic challenged providers to give influenza vaccines well after the traditional flu season during the fall. As we start the summer months, it is time to begin planning for the next flu season this fall. The following recommendations will help you prepare for the upcoming influenza season.

Available Products & ACIP Recommendations:

- Last year's H1N1 strain (swine flu) will be in the influenza vaccine this year along with a new H3N2 strain and an influenza B strain: **there will only be 1 influenza vaccine**
- A high-dose vaccine for people 65 years and older, which promotes a stronger immune response, will be available
- Universal influenza vaccination of all people 6 months and older is now recommended
- Healthcare professionals should be vaccinated with influenza and Tdap
- In addition to the standard 2-dose requirement for children under 9 years, any child who did not receive an H1N1 vaccine during 2009-2010 should receive **2 doses** of influenza vaccine this season

Practical Applications for Clinics

- Pre-order influenza vaccines NOW if you haven't done so already. Influenza supplies should be adequate for demand this year. The H1N1 pandemic motivated more people to receive an influenza vaccine. Demand for influenza vaccine this fall may be higher than previous years.
- As soon as you receive influenza vaccine, start offering it to patients and your staff.
- Encourage household contacts of your high-risk patients to get vaccinated; high risk patients include pregnant women, asthmatics, children under 5 years, adults over 50 years, and patients with chronic disease.
- Offer influenza vaccine to pregnant women.
- Continue offering flu vaccine into January, February, and March. Flu cases traditionally peak in February in San Diego. Techniques such as reminder/recalls of patients, waiting room education and late season flu vaccine clinics are effective ways of offering late season influenza vaccines.

Additional Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

California Department of Public Health: www.cdph.ca.gov

County of San Diego Epidemiology and Immunization Branch: www.sdiz.org

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