

IMMUNIZATION BULLETIN:

H1N1 VACCINE GUIDANCE FOR OB/GYN



Background

Following the 2009 outbreak of H1N1 influenza, pregnant women were identified as a high risk group for hospitalization and death. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pregnant women are 4 times more likely to be hospitalized and 6 times more likely to die due to H1N1 than the general public. As a result, ACOG and the CDC have recommended pregnant women be immunized against H1N1 as well as seasonal influenza. Information and recommendations specifically for OB/GYNs are available at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/providers_qa.htm

Immunization Recommendations

ACOG & the CDC recommend OB/GYNs and other providers immunize pregnant women with H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine.

- Pregnant women should receive one dose of both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines.
- The vaccines may be given during any trimester.
- Previously unvaccinated postpartum women (including those breastfeeding) should be immunized with both vaccines. Vaccination will protect mothers and newborns (infants less than 6 months old can not receive influenza vaccine).
- Governor Schwarzenegger issued a temporary exemption to a state law prohibiting the use of thimerosal-containing vaccines for pregnant women
 - There is no evidence that thimerosal causes harm to pregnant women or the fetus
 - CDC recommends flu vaccine with or without thimerosal for pregnant women
 - Exemption is temporary through November 30, 2009
 - Link to the letter from CDPH under "State Grants under Notice" at <http://www.sdiz.org/HealthcarePros/H1N1.html>
- Pregnant women are contraindicated from receiving the H1N1 nasal spray because it contains a live virus. Women with an anaphylactic reaction to eggs or a previous influenza immunization are contraindicated from receiving either H1N1 or seasonal vaccines.

Ordering H1N1 Vaccine

OB/GYNs and other providers are encouraged to register and order H1N1 vaccine at no charge at www.calpanflu.org

H1N1 Shipments & Storage

Approximately 3 million doses of H1N1 vaccine have been shipped throughout California during October. CDPH will approve vaccine orders based on availability and target groups served. It is expected that over 200 million doses will be produced nationally and eventually everyone wishing the vaccine will receive it. Vaccine must be refrigerated between 35-45° F and **must not be frozen**. For refrigeration needs see http://www.eziz.org/PDF/IMM-962_RefrigeratorSetup-Preparing.pdf

Antiviral Use

The CDC recommends consideration of early treatment (preferably within 48 hours) for pregnant women with suspected or confirmed cases. Chemoprophylaxis should be considered for pregnant women exposed to suspected or confirmed H1N1. CDC guidance is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm#C>

Resources

CDC H1N1 resources for Clinicians <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/>

ACOG resources: http://www.acog.org/departments/dept_notice.cfm?recno=20&bulletin=4866

San Diego Immunization Branch is affiliated with County of San Diego Public Health Services.

Want personalized H1N1 information for your department?

SDIB would like to send a physician or other trained staff member to speak to groups of OB/GYNs and their staff about H1N1 vaccine and disease. Speakers can also address other vaccine topics, such as post-partum Tdap vaccination and vaccines for healthcare workers.

Contact Daniel Wurm at (619) 692-5730 or daniel.wurm@sdcounty.ca.gov

For more information visit WWW.SDIZ.ORG