

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD

For immediate release:  
Oct. 5, 2009

Media contact: Chris Minnick  
Office: 575-528-5197, Cell: 575-649-0754

**Department of Health Announces the First Shipment of H1N1 Vaccine Has Been Ordered**  
*Department of Health expects first shipment of 12,000 doses this week*

(Las Cruces) -- The New Mexico Department of Health announced today that the State has ordered the first shipment of H1N1 vaccine and expects the vaccine to start arriving in New Mexico this week. The Department of Health has ordered approximately 12,000 doses of nasal H1N1 flu vaccine that will be shipped to providers statewide.

“This is good news for New Mexico, and I encourage people who are at higher risk for developing serious complications from the flu to get vaccinated,” said Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD. “Getting the H1N1 vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and your family from the disease. I also encourage all New Mexicans to get a seasonal flu shot.”

Nasal flu vaccine can only be given to persons 2 to 49 years of age who are not pregnant and do not have chronic health conditions. H1N1 vaccine in the shot form will arrive in later shipments. The first groups the Department of Health is advising to get vaccinated are pregnant women, household members/caretakers of infants less than 6 months old, children 6 to 59 months of age, children 5 to 18 years with certain chronic health conditions that increase their risk of complications from flu, and healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel with direct patient care.

The Department of Health expects to receive additional allocations of vaccine each week and estimates New Mexico will receive 1.2 million doses by the end of January 2010. After the demand has been met in the first priority group, vaccinations will be provided to other people in the original priority groups. The complete priority group the Department of Health is advising to get the H1N1 vaccination is:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months old
- Children and young adults age 6 months through 24 years
- Healthcare workers and emergency medical services personnel
- People age 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

The Department of Health started shipping seasonal flu vaccine to public health offices, the Department’s long-term care facilities and private providers statewide. New Mexicans should contact their healthcare providers to receive flu vaccine. The Department’s public health offices provide seasonal flu vaccine to people who are at high risk for serious illness and people who have no health insurance.

The Department is advising the following high risk groups get vaccinated against seasonal flu:

- Residents of long-term care facilities
- Persons ages 2-64 years with chronic health conditions, such as asthma or other breathing problems, kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes, muscle or nerve disorders that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems, and children on long-term aspirin therapy.
- Children age 6 months up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Persons ages 50 years and older
- Pregnant women
- Healthcare workers who provide direct patient care
- Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children up to age 5, or anyone at increased risk of flu complications

For information about scheduled flu shot clinics, call Nurse Advice New Mexico toll-free at 866-681-5872 or go online to [www.nmivc.org/cliniclist.php](http://www.nmivc.org/cliniclist.php). Public health offices are listed in the phonebook's blue pages under state government. Contact information for public health offices is also listed at [www.nmhealth.org](http://www.nmhealth.org).

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