



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

Health Department

fastFACTS

about Sedgwick County Government

September 1, 2009

## Novel H1N1Flu Vaccination Information

### When will an H1N1 vaccine be available in Sedgwick County?

As of now, there is no date set for when the H1N1 flu vaccine will be received. The Health Department has plans in place to help facilitate vaccinations as soon as the vaccine is delivered. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have suggested initial deliveries can be expected in mid-October.

### Who is recommended as target groups to receive the novel H1N1 vaccine?

- Pregnant women
- Persons age 6 months to 24 years old
- People aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions that compromise their immune systems
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel

### Are there priority groups in case of a vaccine shortage?

In the case of a vaccine shortage, the list of those who receive vaccine becomes more focused. The highest priority groups would include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions

### If I'm not in the target group, will I be able to get vaccinated?

Yes, but not immediately. The federal government is working hard to ensure enough vaccine is available for those who want it, however due to delays in vaccine production, only small amounts of vaccine will be available initially.

The first doses of vaccine will be reserved for the target group. As more vaccine becomes available, others will be able to receive vaccinations.

### Will a seasonal flu vaccine protect me from the H1N1 influenza virus?

No, the H1N1 influenza virus is a different strain of flu from the strain the seasonal shot protects against. Individuals will need to obtain separate vaccinations for H1N1 and seasonal flu in order to be fully protected this flu season.

### What is the health department's plan to meet the community's H1N1 vaccination needs?

The health department is working with partners in the community, including schools, private healthcare providers, hospitals, community health clinics, and first responders. The health department is encouraging private providers to give the vaccine to their patients who are within the target population when it is available. The health department is also recruiting volunteers and planning mass vaccination clinics. Schools and colleges may be used as clinic sites to most efficiently vaccinate students. Additional information will become available as more locations are identified to provide vaccine.



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## Novel H1N1 Flu Vaccination Information - Continued

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### Will my doctor be able to give me the H1N1 vaccine?

Possibly. All private healthcare providers have been offered the opportunity to sign up to receive H1N1 vaccine. It is your doctor's decision if he/she will give the H1N1 vaccination.

### Will the H1N1 influenza vaccine be mandatory?

No. The federal government has made no indication that the vaccine will be mandated on any individuals.

### What can I do now to reduce the risk of illness?

As with any influenza virus, individuals are encouraged to practice *good hygiene habits*.

#### *You can help stop germs from spreading.*

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick (especially if you have a fever) to avoid spreading illness to co-workers and friends.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.

### What else can I do?

- Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting adequate rest and exercise.
- Monitor your stress level. If you feel overwhelmed, seek help: COMCARE of Sedgwick County, 660-7540 or the Crisis Help Line, 660-7500.

### How can I get more information?

For more information on H1N1  
or any other health issues,  
call the Sedgwick County Health Department  
at 660-5558.