

# Questions & Answers: H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

The new H1N1 influenza (flu) virus, formerly known as Swine Flu, is currently causing illness in people throughout the United States and countries around the world, causing the World Health Organization to declare a pandemic. The following information was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).\* We encourage you to keep up-to-date by visiting [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The following information can be used for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu.

*\*Original design and content aggregation by the Medina County Health Department, Medina, Ohio*

**1. Is H1N1 and Swine Flu the same thing?**

Yes, H1N1 is the new name for Swine Flu.

**2. What are the plans for developing the H1N1 vaccine?**

The H1N1 vaccine has been developed and is being tested.

**3. When is it expected that the H1N1 vaccine will be available?**

Experts have informed us to expect the novel H1N1 vaccine to be available in the fall or later. Availability depends on several factors, including time needed for testing, manufacturing time, and shipping time.

**4. Will the seasonal flu vaccine also protect against the H1N1 flu?**

The seasonal flu vaccine will **NOT** protect against H1N1 flu virus.

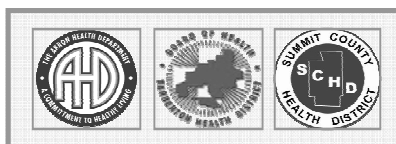
**5. Can the seasonal vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine be given at the same time?**

Vaccine testing is in progress. Once vaccine testing is complete, we will know if we can give both vaccines at the same time. In the meantime, we encourage Summit County residents to prevent the spread of the seasonal flu by getting their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it is available. Visit [www.summitflu.org](http://www.summitflu.org) for information on flu shots. A second dose of the H1N1 vaccine may be required.

**6. Who will be recommended as priority groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine?**

As of August 14, 2009, the CDC recommends the following groups receive the H1N1 vaccine:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of children under 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency services personnel
- All people 6 months to 24 years of age
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.



## 7. Where will the vaccine be available?

The health departments of Summit County will be working with area partners to provide vaccine at sites throughout the county. Local health departments have practiced setting up and operating pandemic flu clinics and are ready to set up clinics to provide H1N1 vaccine to Summit County citizens when the vaccine becomes available.

## 8. Are there other ways to prevent the spread of flu?

Every day actions can help you stay healthy.

- **Stay informed** – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.summitflu.org](http://www.summitflu.org).
- **Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze** – use your sleeve or tissue.
- **Wash your hands** frequently with soap and water, especially after possible exposure to the flu virus. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth**—germs spread this way.
- **Get prepared**—have an emergency preparedness kit and plan at home.
- **Get your seasonal flu shot.** Contact your local health department for more details, or check out [www.summitflu.org](http://www.summitflu.org) for information on flu shots.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds, and other social distancing advice. Social distancing is a way to reduce contact between people to slow the spread of an illness. These measures will continue to be important after the H1N1 vaccine is available because they can prevent the spread of other viruses that cause respiratory infections.



## 9. What about the use of antivirals to treat the new H1N1 infection?

Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid, or an inhaled powder) that fight against the flu by keeping flu viruses from reproducing in your body. If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious complications of flu. Antiviral drugs do not prevent people from getting the flu. Talk with your healthcare provider.

