

# PHYSICIAN GUIDE

## H1N1 VACCINE

### Be Prepared - Stay Informed

#### Vaccine Availability and Usage:

- Physicians must register at [www.TexasFlu.org](http://www.TexasFlu.org) to order the H1N1 vaccine. It will be distributed exclusively through the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) rather than traditional vaccine distribution channels. Although DSHS encouraged physicians to pre-register by Sept. 13 to aid statewide planning, officials now say pre-registration will continue throughout the H1N1 vaccination campaign.
  - The vaccines will be sent in increments of 100.
  - Texas can expect to receive its first shipment during the first week of October, a second shipment by mid-October and regular weekly shipments by the end of the month.
  - The vaccine will confer protection from the virus eight to 10 days after administered.
  - A single injection (one dose) will suffice to protect individuals over age 10; however, children under 10 should receive two doses.
  - The H1N1 vaccine can be administered at the same time as the shot against the seasonal flu.
  - The LAIV (nasal spray) is **only** recommended for **HEALTHY** people ages 2-49 years.
  - Administering both the live attenuated seasonal and the live attenuated H1N1 influenza vaccines at the same visit is NOT recommended because of concerns about competition between the two vaccine viruses. If you have only live vaccines for both seasonal and H1N1 influenza available, you should separate the doses of the two live vaccines by at least 4 weeks.
  - Go to [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations), for information on the use of antiviral medications.
- ♦ Disregard any past advice sent and monitor the NCMS Web site ([www.nuecesmedsociety.org](http://www.nuecesmedsociety.org)) for changes in current advice.

#### CDC's Priority Vaccine Recommendations:

H1N1 Vaccine	Seasonal Flu	
X	X	Pregnant women
X	X	People who live with or care for babies under 6 months of age
X	X	Children and young people age 6 months to 18 years
X		All young adults ages 19 to 24
	X	People 50 years of age and older
X	X	People ages 24 to 64 with certain chronic medical conditions
X	X	Health care and emergency medical services workers
	X	People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
	X	People who live with or care for those at high risk* for complications from flu (except infants)

\*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines high risk for H1N1 influenza as adults and children with: chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, metabolic disorders, and/or immunosuppression, including those caused by medications or HIV.

#### Emergency Preparedness for Your Practice:

Plan now for what is expected to be a very unusual, active flu season. Plans should include:

- Physicians and practice staff should receive the seasonal **and** H1N1 flu vaccines;
- Cross train employees so that staff can cover for each other as staff becomes sick;
- Have staff work from home, allowing productivity from those who are well enough to work but for various reasons cannot come to work;
- Plan for a surge of individuals seeking care and increased demand for information, including a demand on your telephone system;
- Ask your staff to perform phone triage to determine if calling patients have H1N1 symptoms;
- Keep patients with H1N1 symptoms isolated from other patients, if possible;
- Inform patients who are on the high priority list that they should receive the H1N1 immunization in addition to seasonal flu vaccine; and
- A decision algorithm is available through DSHS at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/DCHHS-H1N1.pdf](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/DCHHS-H1N1.pdf).

#### Public Health Messages

##### for Your Patients:

- Wash hands frequently or use alcohol sanitizer;
- Cough into arm, rather than hand;
- Stay home when you are sick, at least until there is no fever for 24 hours without medication;
- Be prepared to be sick;
- Be vaccinated for seasonal and, if appropriate, H1N1 flu;
- Do not give aspirin or aspirin containing medicine to children under age 18; and
- Get pneumococcal vaccine, as recommended.

#### Reimbursement:

- DSHS is working with the CDC for physicians to seek third-party reimbursement for:
  - Performing diagnostic testing for suspected H1N1;
  - Evaluating and treating persons with H1N1;
  - Administering seasonal flu and novel H1N1 vaccines; and
  - Providing care at alternative sites.
- Utilize ICD and CPT codes for:
  - Diagnosis:
  - Vaccine administration; and
  - Vaccines.

- Specific codes can be found at: [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).

#### Stay Informed:

Stay informed on the H1N1 virus by visiting these sites often:

- [www.texasflu.org](http://www.texasflu.org) - DSHS (1-888-963-7111)
- [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance) - CDC
- [www.nuecesmedsociety.org](http://www.nuecesmedsociety.org) - Look on the home page under announcements
- [www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us) - Nueces County Public Health District
- [www.cctexas.com](http://www.cctexas.com) - City of Corpus Christi

Created by the Nueces County Medical Society Updated: Oct. 22, 2009. For updated flyer, go to [www.nuecesmedsociety.org](http://www.nuecesmedsociety.org).