2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine To Be Available At Schools In San Luis Obispo County

November 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department in cooperation with the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education and the 10 school districts in the County will offer 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine at school sites throughout the County this fall. Receipt of the vaccination is voluntary.

This vaccine is to protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available. It is recommended that your child receive the vaccine even if she/he has had “influenza” this fall unless there was laboratory confirmation of 2009 H1N1 illness.

Vaccinations will be provided beginning in November at your child’s school. Your child’s school will let you know the specific date. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine.

The yellow vaccine consent form attached must be filled out completely and returned to your student’s teacher within four (4) school days in order for your student to receive the H1N1 vaccine. No child will be given H1N1 vaccine without a completed consent. If you consent, the vaccine will be given to your child at school on a scheduled day via an injection or nasal mist. You will be provided with a record of the vaccine received by your child, as well as information about timing and availability of a second dose of vaccine if your child is under 10 years of age. If, at any time, you change your mind about having your child vaccinated, you can call or come in person to the school to inform school staff.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination, visit the SLO County Public Health website at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/swineflu.htm, call the recorded information line at 805-788-2903 or call the San Luis Obispo Public Health Department office at 805-781-5500.

Sincerely,

Penny Borenstein, M.D.
County Health Officer

Julian D. Crocker
County Superintendent of Schools
Screening Questionnaire and Consent for HINI Influenza Vaccination

For parents of children to be vaccinated: The following questions will help us determine which type of flu vaccine we should give. If you answer "yes" to any question, it does not necessarily mean your child should not be vaccinated. It just means additional questions must be asked.

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<td>(Official use only) Is the person to be vaccinated sick today? Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Does your child have a severe allergy to eggs?</td>
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<td>2. Does your child have any other serious allergies? If so, please list:</td>
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<td>3. Has your child ever had a serious reaction to a previous dose of flu vaccine?</td>
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<td>4. Has your child ever had Guillain-Barré syndrome?</td>
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<td>5. Does your child have any of the following: asthma (wheezing), diabetes (or other metabolic disease), or diseases of the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, nerves or blood? If so, please describe:</td>
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<td>6. Does your child have a weak immune system (for example, from HIV, cancer, or medications such as steroids or those used to treat cancer)?</td>
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<td>7. Is your child on long-term aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy (for example, does your child take aspirin every day)?</td>
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<td>8. Is your child pregnant?</td>
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<td>9. Does your child have close contact with a person who needs care in a hospital protected environment (for example, someone who has recently had a bone marrow transplant)?</td>
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<td>10. Has your child received any other vaccinations including seasonal flu or 2009 H1N1 flu in the past 4 weeks? If so, please list: Vaccine type: Date:</td>
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NAME OF PERSON TO RECEIVE FLU VACCINE: ________________________________

DATE OF BIRTH: __________________________

PARENT SIGNATURE OF CONSENT: I have been given copies of the 2009/10 H1N1 Flu Vaccine Information Sheets dated 10/02/09 and request that my child receive the H1N1 Flu Vaccine (2 doses 4 weeks apart for children under 10 years of age and one dose for all others).

Signature: ___________________________ Phone: _____________ Date: _____________

Acknowledgement of Notices of Privacy Practices (NPP): Please sign:
(If you would like a copy of the PHD NPP, go to www.silocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/hipaa/hipa)

Given FluMist® lot# ___________ exp ___________ MedImmune 0.2ml intranasal by: _____________ RN, Date: _____________

Given Flu Inject. lot# ___________ exp ___________ mfg ___________ 0.5ml IM by: _____________ RN, Date: _____________

H1N1 Screening/Consent 10/21/09
2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE

LIVE, ATTENUATED (the nasal spray vaccine)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis.

1 What is 2009 H1N1 influenza?

2009 H1N1 influenza (sometimes called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus. It has spread to many countries.

Like other flu viruses, 2009 H1N1 spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing, and sometimes through touching objects contaminated with the virus.

Signs of 2009 H1N1 can include:
- Fatigue   • Fever    • Sore Throat • Muscle Aches
- Chills    • Coughing • Sneezing

Some people also have diarrhea and vomiting.

Most people feel better within a week. But some people get pneumonia or other serious illnesses. Some people have to be hospitalized and some die.

2 How is 2009 H1N1 different from regular (seasonal) flu?

Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other.

People who have had flu infections in the past usually have some immunity to seasonal flu viruses (their bodies have built up some ability to fight off the viruses).

The 2009 H1N1 flu virus is a new virus strain. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses.

Most people have little or no immunity to 2009 H1N1 flu (their bodies are not prepared to fight off the virus).

3 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine

Vaccines are available to protect against 2009 H1N1 influenza.

- These vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines.
- They are expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines.
- They will not prevent “influenza-like” illnesses caused by other viruses.

- They will not prevent seasonal flu. You should also get seasonal influenza vaccine, if you want protection from seasonal flu.

Live, attenuated intranasal vaccine (or LAIV) is sprayed into the nose. This sheet describes the live, attenuated intranasal vaccine.

An inactivated vaccine is also available, which is given as a shot. It is described in a separate sheet.

The 2009 H1N1 LAIV does not contain thimerosal or other preservatives. It is licensed for people from 2 through 49 years of age.

The vaccine virus is attenuated (weakened) so it will not cause illness.

4 Who should get 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and when?

WHO

LAIV is approved for people from 2 through 49 years of age who are not pregnant and do not have certain health conditions (see number 5 below). Groups recommended to receive 2009 H1N1 LAIV first are healthy people who:

- are from 2 through 24 years of age,
- are from 25 through 49 years of age and
  - live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age, or
  - are health care or emergency medical personnel.

As more vaccine becomes available, other healthy 25 through 49 year olds should also be vaccinated.

Note: While certain groups should not get LAIV – for example pregnant women, people with long-term health problems, and children from 6 months to 2 years of age – it is important that they be vaccinated. They should get the flu shot.

The Federal government is providing this vaccine for receipt on a voluntary basis. However, state law or employers may require vaccination for certain persons.

WHEN

Get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available.
Children through 9 years of age should get two doses of vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.

5 Some people should not get the vaccine or should wait

You should not get 2009 H1N1 LAIV if you have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine. Tell the person giving you the vaccine if you have any severe allergies.

2009 H1N1 LAIV should not be given to the following groups.
• children younger than 2 and adults 50 years and older
• pregnant women,
• anyone with a weakened immune system,
• anyone with a long-term health problem such as
  - heart disease
  - kidney or liver disease
  - lung disease
  - metabolic disease such as diabetes
  - asthma
  - anemia and other blood disorders
• children younger than 5 years with asthma or one or more episodes of wheezing during the past year,
• anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems,
• anyone in close contact with a person with a severely weakened immune system (requiring care in a protected environment, such as a bone marrow transplant unit),
• children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment.

If you are moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until you recover before getting the vaccine. If you have a mild cold or other illness, there is usually no need to wait.

Tell your doctor if you ever had:
• a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine,
• Guillain-Barré syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS).

These may not be reasons to avoid the vaccine, but the medical staff can help you decide.

2009 H1N1 LAIV may be given at the same time as most other vaccines. Tell your doctor if you got any other vaccines within the past month or plan to get any within the next month. H1N1 LAIV and seasonal LAIV should not be given together.

6 What are the risks from 2009 H1N1 LAIV?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. But the risk of any vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

The risks from 2009 H1N1 LAIV are expected to be similar to those from seasonal LAIV:

Mild problems:
Some children and adolescents 2-17 years of age have reported mild reactions, including:
• runny nose, nasal congestion or cough
• fever
• headache and muscle aches
• abdominal pain or occasional vomiting or diarrhea

Some adults 18-49 years of age have reported:
• runny nose or nasal congestion
• sore throat
• cough, chills, tiredness/weakness
• headache

Severe problems:
• Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.
• In 1976, an earlier type of inactivated swine flu vaccine was associated with cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). LAIV has not been linked to GBS.

7 What if there is a severe reaction?

What should I look for?
Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?
• Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
• Tell the doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
• Ask your provider to report the reaction by filling a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

8 Vaccine injury compensation

If you or your child has a reaction to the vaccine, your ability to sue is limited by law.

However, a federal program has been created to help pay for the medical care and other specific expenses of certain persons who have a serious reaction to this vaccine. For more information about this program, call 1-888-275-4772 or visit the program’s website at: www.hrsa.gov/coutermeasurescomp/default.htm.

9 How can I learn more?

• Ask your provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
• Call your local or state health department.
• Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call 1-800-332-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
  - Visit CDC’s website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or www.cdc.gov/flu
  - Visit the web at www.flu.gov
1 What is 2009 H1N1 influenza?

2009 H1N1 influenza (also called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus. It has spread to many countries.

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Signs of 2009 H1N1 can include:
- Fatigue
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- Chills
- Coughing
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Some people also have diarrhea and vomiting. Most people feel better within a week. But some people get pneumonia or other serious illnesses. Some people have to be hospitalized and some die.

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Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other.

People who have had flu infections in the past usually have some immunity to seasonal flu viruses (their bodies have built up some ability to fight off the viruses).

The 2009 H1N1 flu is a new flu virus. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses.

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Vaccines are available to protect against 2009 H1N1 influenza.

- These vaccines are made just like seasonal flu vaccines.
- They are expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccines.
- They will not prevent “influenza-like” illnesses caused by other viruses.
- They will not prevent seasonal flu. You should also get seasonal influenza vaccine, if you want to be protected against seasonal flu.

Inactivated vaccine (vaccine that has killed virus in it) is injected into the muscle, like the annual flu shot. This sheet describes the inactivated vaccine.

A live, intranasal vaccine (the nasal spray vaccine) is also available. It is described in a separate sheet.

Some inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine contains a preservative called thimerosal to keep it free from germs. Some people have suggested that thimerosal might be related to autism. In 2004 a group of experts at the Institute of Medicine reviewed many studies looking into this theory, and found no association between thimerosal and autism. Additional studies since then reached the same conclusion.

4 Who should get 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and when?

WHO

Groups recommended to receive 2009 H1N1 vaccine first are:
- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system

As more vaccine becomes available, these groups should also be vaccinated:
- Healthy 25 through 64 year olds
- Adults 65 years and older

The Federal government is providing this vaccine for receipt on a voluntary basis. However, state law or employers may require vaccination for certain persons.

WHEN

Get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available.

Children through 9 years of age should get two doses of vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.
5 Some people should not get the vaccine or should wait

You should not get 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine if you have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine. Tell the person giving you the vaccine if you have any severe allergies.

Also tell them if you have ever had:
- a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of seasonal flu vaccine,
- Guillain Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness also called GBS).

These may not be reasons to avoid the vaccine, but the medical staff can help you decide.

If you are moderately or severely ill, you might be advised to wait until you recover before getting the vaccine. If you have a mild cold or other illness, there is usually no need to wait.

Pregnant or breastfeeding women can get inactivated 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine.

Inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including seasonal influenza vaccine.

6 What are the risks from 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. But the risk of any vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

The virus in inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine has been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

The risks from inactivated 2009 H1N1 vaccine are similar to those from seasonal inactivated flu vaccine:

Mild problems:
- soreness, redness, tenderness, or swelling where the shot was given
- fainting (mainly adolescents)
- headache, muscle aches
- fever
- nausea

If these problems occur, they usually begin soon after the shot and last 1-2 days.

Severe problems:
- Life-threatening allergic reactions to vaccines are very rare. If they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot.
- In 1976, an earlier type of swine flu vaccine was associated with cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). Since then, flu vaccines have not been clearly linked to GBS.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Vaccine Information Statement
2009 H1N1 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine 10/2/09