



FROM: Communicable Disease Prevention Unit
San Francisco Department of Public Health

DATE: October 7, 2009

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H1N1 SWINE FLU VACCINE UPDATE

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CHANGE IN H1N1 VACCINATION STRATEGY

Rather than doing Mass Vaccination Clinics, the vaccine will be distributed directly to providers who have high risk patients and who have registered on CalPanFlu.org. We are making these strategic changes to our plans due to the uncertainty about the arrival time of the H1N1 vaccine.

We will NOT hold the previously announced public mass vaccination clinics the week of October 26th. Instead, vaccinations will be offered at community-based clinics to high risk patients without a regular medical home or whose normal provider is not receiving the H1N1 vaccine. This approach will allow the City to respond more quickly when the vaccine arrives and have the vaccine be available in the community 48 hours after receipt.

- The first shipment of vaccine arriving in San Francisco will be directly delivered to providers and hospitals already registered on the CalPanFlu.org website who serve the highest risk groups (pediatricians, ob/gyns, family practice offices). Subsequent shipments will go to additional providers who have registered.
- To replace the mass clinics, plans are in development to allow access to free vaccination for high-risk persons without a provider or whose normal provider is not receiving the H1N1 vaccine. Sites will be set up at existing public health and community health clinics within 48 hours of vaccine arrival. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.

The media attention earlier this week on vaccine arrival refers to a very limited number of doses of LAIV intended only for healthy children ages 2 to 18. Parents need to call their pediatric provider to find out if it is available in that practice.

This is a complicated season for all of us. We appreciate your patience with this evolving H1N1 swine flu vaccine clinic planning.



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