

H1N1 Vaccine Information

We have received our first shipment of H1N1 vaccine from the federal government. It is Sanofi inactivated H1N1 vaccine, the same manufacturer that we use for our seasonal flu vaccines, as well as many other pediatric vaccines. The manufacturing process is the same and the vaccine is very similar to the regular flu vaccine – it just was formulated to protect against the H1N1 strain. We may get other preparations, such as the nasal mist, but we will have no notice or say in the matter and will get whatever the government sends us. We expect shipments through November.

Who Is Eligible To Get Vaccine?

- All 6month – 24 year olds
- People who live with or care for children under 6 months
- Pregnant women
- Healthcare workers
- 25-64 year olds with chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems (such as asthma)

Do we recommend the shot?

Yes! Although the majority of the swine flu cases so far have been relatively mild there have been some very sick children, hospitalized children, and deaths in children with no risk factors. We think we will continue to see cases throughout the year. Even if you think your child already had the flu, we recommend the shot. We don't know for sure that your child had H1N1, and we don't know how much immunity someone gets from the first exposure. All children with underlying chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and cerebral palsy should get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Can Parents get the vaccine?

If an adult fits in to any of the above categories we will give the H1N1 vaccine at the office. There will be a \$20.00 administration fee (as allowed by law) that must be paid with (green) cash. A receipt will be given that can be filed with insurance, and if preferred the shot is offered for free at the health department to adults that meet the criteria. The shot will be entered into GRITS, the Georgia immunization registry as required by law.

Is there a fee for children?

The vaccine itself is provided for free by the federal government. There is an administration charge, as allowed by law, that most insurance companies have agreed to pay without a copayment for the patient. For anyone without any insurance the administrative charge is \$12.00, also as allowed by law.

Seasonal and H1N1 spacing:

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| Inactivated and Inactivated (shot and shot) | No interval |
| Inactivated (shot) and Live (nasal) | No interval |
| Live (nasal) and Live (nasal) | 4 week interval (at least 21 days per CDC) |

Seasonal flu shot can be given with the H1N1 shot.

H1N1 does not take the place of the seasonal flu shot. Both shots are recommended this year.

Does my child need more than one shot?

All kids between 6 months and 10 years will need two doses if available spaced at least 21 days apart.