

12/9/2009

NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.

2009 H1N1 VACCINE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **H1N1 vaccine eligibility: All 6 months and older who wish to prevent H1N1 influenza.**
- Reminder: 2nd dose for 10 and under
- Healthy 2 – 49 years of age preferentially receive Flumist®.
- Sign up to be an H1N1 vaccine provider
- Twenty local pharmacies now vaccinating

Thurston County, along with the other Washington Counties, will broaden the use of H1N1 influenza vaccine to include all individuals over 6 months of age, regardless of risk status or age. Indications are that supply is catching up with demand all around the state so that in Thurston County vaccine will be offered to all those seeking it effective December 9.

The risk of exposure to H1N1 continues at a lower level but this varies by location. With the holiday season coming up, more families will be getting together and travel will increase. There is a high risk of another wave of H1N1 influenza after the holidays and when schools get back in session. Please remember that children 10 and younger need a 2nd dose of H1N1 vaccine given at least 28 days after 1st dose in order to be fully protected. We prefer that healthy persons between 2 and 49 who are eligible for live intranasal H1N1 vaccine be offered Flumist®.

Health care providers have received vaccine to immunize individuals at greater risk for H1N1 influenza complications. We strongly recommend that patients at high risk of serious illness due to influenza continue to be a focus for H1N1 vaccination. At this time, Clinics with sufficient vaccine in their possession can start providing H1N1 vaccine to all upon request. Vaccine availability by location may temporarily be limited.

If you are not currently an H1N1 vaccine provider, we encourage you to consider becoming one. To become a provider, please contact Jillian Heist at 360-867-2533 or by email heistj@co.thurston.wa.us If you are unable to become an H1N1 vaccine provider, you can refer your patients to participating pharmacies or send a referral to Providence St Peter Hospital Employee Health.

- As of December 7, 2009, 20 local pharmacies are now also offering H1N1 influenza vaccine to the public. Please visit the Thurston County web site for details: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
- Pharmacists usually will not vaccinate those under 8 years of age. Children can be referred to Capital Medical Center Occupational Health and are seen by appointment.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH, Health Officer: (360) 867-2501



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To date Thurston County has received about 30% of the total expected H1N1 vaccine allotment, with the rest yet to arrive. The pace of vaccine arrival is expected to increase over the next several weeks, which should allow for a more sufficient quantity to meet demand. There is about a week lag time between ordering vaccine and vaccine arrival.

The Thurston health care and emergency medical community has responded to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic with great care for the health of the community as a whole. The collaboration and assistance provided by all has increased our ability to respond to the outbreak, learn from our earlier experiences and make adjustments to improve quality of care and prevent further morbidity and mortality. It has been an exhausting 7 months with more expected. Having great partners to share in caring for our community lightens the load for everyone. THANKS!!



HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.



COVER YOUR COUGH! WASH YOUR HANDS! STAY HOME WHEN ILL! GET A FLU SHOT WHEN AVAILABLE.