



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

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***PUBLIC HEALTH FAX ADVISORY***

January 26, 2010

**Message from the Health Officer on H1N1 Vaccine**

**Please Share this Important Information with Physicians  
in Your Practice and with Your Management Staff**

**Vaccine Supply**

San Mateo County has a large surplus of H1N1 vaccine on hand and can provide additional doses to providers. Although vaccine can now be ordered directly by providers' offices at [www.CalPanFlu.org](http://www.CalPanFlu.org), we encourage you to contact Natasha Desai at 650 573-2346 if you need more vaccine for your practice in order to minimize waste of surplus vaccine.

**Please give the second dose of H1N1 vaccine to all children aged < 10 Years**

CDC recommends that the **two doses** of vaccine against 2009 H1N1 influenza virus be separated by 4 weeks (or at least 21 days). We understand that administering the second dose of vaccine may present a logistical challenge for healthcare providers and parents, and that public interest in the vaccine has decreased. The CDC and NIH have recently highlighted the importance of the second dose, particularly for children at highest risk of influenza-related complications.

Preliminary data from the NIH "show that children nine years of age and younger have a significantly improved immune response when given a second 15-microgram dose of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine."

- Among children 6 to 35 months of age, 100 percent had a robust immune response after the second 15-microgram dose, compared with only 25 percent of children who received a single dose.
- Among children aged 3 through 9 years, 94 percent had a robust immune response after the second 15-microgram dose compared with only 55 percent of children who received a single dose.
- Studies of vaccine effectiveness have consistently demonstrated that two doses of seasonal influenza vaccine provide better protection than one.

Ensuring protection from seasonal and pandemic influenza is particularly important for young children and those with chronic medical conditions. Please consider the following practices:

- Offer H1N1 vaccine to all patients (except those with contraindications)
- Notify parents of children 6 months to 9 years old, especially those with high-risk conditions, about the availability of the second dose of H1N1 vaccine at your practice. If you have insufficient amounts of vaccine to provide the second dose to all your patients

that need it, please contact San Mateo County for additional doses or refer them to the San Mateo County mass vaccination clinics for the second dose. For a list of these vaccine clinics, visit [www.smhealth.org/flu/vaccines](http://www.smhealth.org/flu/vaccines)

Although notifying children about the second dose may be initially resource-intensive, an office system for notifying children with chronic medical conditions and special healthcare needs could be used for other purposes, such as annual seasonal influenza vaccinations, mass exposures (to chemicals or biological agents), or disasters (e.g., earthquakes, heat waves).

### **Please encourage all of your patients to get vaccinated against H1N1 flu**

Now that the second wave is declining and fewer people are getting sick, many have lost interest in getting vaccinated. But it is highly likely that there will be a third wave of H1N1 flu this year, and that the virus will not disappear completely. Now that the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine is widely available, it is the perfect time for people to protect themselves, their families and their community by getting a flu shot. Please offer H1N1 vaccine to all of your patients. If you have insufficient vaccine, there are many locations offering H1N1 vaccinations throughout the County, including retail stores and pharmacies, and free County public vaccination clinics. For a full list of the County flu clinics, visit [www.smhealth.org/flu/vaccines](http://www.smhealth.org/flu/vaccines).

As always, if you have questions about vaccine supply, please call (650) 573-2346 (please do not give this number to your patients) and ask for Natasha Desai. You are encouraged to visit our Healthcare Providers page on our website at [www.smhealth.org/swineflu](http://www.smhealth.org/swineflu) for tools and resources that may be of help and the CDC has posted “H1N1 Clinicians Questions/Answers” on recommendations for the vaccine at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians_qa.htm).

If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (650) 573-2519.

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH  
Health Officer  
San Mateo County Health System

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#### References:

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