

Immunization Against The Novel H1N1 Influenza Virus, 2009-10

Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center

I. Annual immunization is the most effective way to prevent influenza virus infection and its complications. Immunization of health care workers is particularly important: Le Bonheur recommends that associates and physicians receive the vaccine against the novel H1N1 influenza A virus when it becomes available in October, 2009. Health care workers are one of the priority groups recommended to receive this vaccine.

II. Note that two forms of the novel H1N1 vaccine will be available (as with seasonal influenza vaccine):

(1) An injectable form of the vaccine similar to the yearly seasonal TIV vaccine that will be indicated for anyone 6 months of age or older, and

(2) A nasal-spray (FluMist®) version of the vaccine (live attenuated influenza virus or LAIV) that will be indicated for people 2 to 49 years of age who are healthy and not pregnant (see below)

III. Who should not be vaccinated with the nasal-spray flu vaccine LAIV (FluMist®)?

(A) People less than 2 years of age or over 50 years of age

(B) People with a medical condition that places them at high risk for complications from influenza, including those with chronic heart or lung disease such as asthma or reactive airways disease; people with medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney failure; or people with illnesses that weaken the immune system, or who take medications that can weaken the immune system.

(C) Children <5 years old with a history of recurrent wheezing

(D) Children or adolescents receiving aspirin

(E) Pregnant women

(F) People who are in contact with others with **severely** weakened immune systems when they are being cared for in a protective environment (for example, people with hematopoietic stem cell transplants), should not get LAIV (FluMist®). **(People who have contact with others with lesser degrees of immunosuppression (for example, people with diabetes, people with asthma taking corticosteroids, or people infected with HIV) can get LAIV (FluMist®)**

IV. Who should not receive either of the vaccines against the novel H1N1 virus?

(A) People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs or who are allergic to any of the nasal spray vaccine components.

(B) People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare disorder of the nervous system

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>