

Q & A about the H1N1 Vaccine

10/26/2009

What is the H1N1 vaccine?

There are two types of vaccine being manufactured: the “flu shot,” which is injected into your arm, and the “nasal spray” vaccine. The 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine has been carefully tested and proven to be both safe and effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s **Vaccine Information Statements for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine** are below. Those who wish to receive an H1N1 vaccine are encouraged to **read both statements** to educate themselves about the vaccine choices.

H1N1 Nasal spray vaccine: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-laiv-h1n1.pdf>

H1N1 Flu Shot vaccine: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-inact-h1n1.pdf>

Is the H1N1 vaccine available at UCF?

The delay in distribution of 2009 H1N1 vaccine has impacted the entire nation and has resulted in uneven availability. UCF received a limited supply of the nasal spray vaccine from the Orange County Health Department and expects to receive more vaccines, both in the shot form (needle) and the nasal spray form. UCF is committed to vaccinating priority groups as quickly as the vaccine becomes available.

What are the priority groups to get the H1N1 vaccine?

The current priority groups to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine, as established by the CDC, are: health care providers and emergency medical services personnel; anyone age 6 months to 24 years; pregnant women; people who live with or provide care to infants younger than 6 months; people age 25 to 64 years who have underlying health conditions that increase risk for flu-related health complications. (Note: the order of the groups listed does not indicate priority).

How will UCF distribute the H1N1 vaccines?

UCF is distributing its initial doses of H1N1 nasal spray vaccines based on CDC guidelines. UCF Health Services has identified high-priority groups at UCF and has contacted them to schedule vaccinations. Priority groups include Health Center staff who provide patient care to our students; police, who assist in emergencies at UCF and ensure the safety of our campus community; and College of Nursing students and faculty who may be asked to help administer future vaccines for UCF, and who provide patient care at clinics throughout Central Florida as part of their curriculum.

Once those priority groups have received their doses, remaining vaccines will be offered to UCF students age 24 and younger who meet the criteria to receive the vaccine.

Any additional vaccines that remain will be offered to UCF faculty and staff who belong to the CDC priority groups listed above.

Students, faculty and staff may also check with their private health care providers about the availability of 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

****Note that the nasal spray form of the H1N1 vaccine – currently the only type available at UCF – is not appropriate for some people with certain health conditions (see below).****

Who cannot get the nasal spray version of the H1N1 vaccine?

Those who cannot receive the nasal spray vaccine include: pregnant women, people 50 years of age and older; and people with a medical condition that places them at higher risk for complications from influenza. Those conditions include chronic heart or lung disease, such as asthma; and diabetes or kidney failure. Read the CDC’s Vaccine Information Statements (links are provided above) to educate yourself on the vaccine choices.

Once the H1N1 vaccines are more widely available to students, how will they be distributed?

Depending on the quantities of vaccine available each week, students will be able to go to the UCF Health Center's Pharmacy or to Knight Aide, located in Knights Plaza, to pick up a coupon allowing them to get their shot at a specific time and date. This will allow students to choose a time that is convenient for them, and they will not have to wait long when they go for their appointment.

How much will the vaccine cost?

Students will receive the vaccine for free. The administrative fee for faculty and staff will be \$10.