

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
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**Public Health**   
Seattle & King County

**Health Advisory: Expanded H1N1 Vaccine Eligibility in King County, 9 December, 2009**

**Action requested: Please review the following revised recommendations.**

- **Public Health recommends that King County healthcare providers continue to aggressively vaccinate persons in ACIP target populations (see [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm))**
- **In addition to persons in the ACIP target populations, beginning December 12<sup>th</sup> healthcare providers may vaccinate any person 6 months of age and older who wishes to be protected against influenza A H1N1.**
- **In settings where the demand for vaccination among ACIP target population patients is high, health care providers may consider preferentially vaccinating patients in target populations and refer patients outside of the target group to pharmacies or community clinics for vaccination where supplies permit.**
- **Healthcare providers should reinforce the preference for intranasal (LAIV) H1N1 vaccine for eligible patients, particularly where there is ongoing unmet demand among ACIP target population patients not eligible for LAIV.**

**Background:** This message is to inform you of a change in H1N1 vaccine eligibility status in King County beginning later this week. H1N1 vaccine supplies are increasing and are expected to continue to increase steadily. Many health care providers are now reporting that they have met and/or are able to keep up with demand for H1N1 vaccine among the ACIP target population in their practice settings, although a number of larger healthcare facilities report that vaccine supplies have not yet met the estimated demand among their ACIP target population patients. We are also aware of significant demand for H1N1 vaccination among adults who are not currently eligible and we have indications that demand for vaccine is decreasing in the community among high risk patients. Decreasing demand raises concern for missed opportunities for vaccination over the coming weeks when people traditionally lose interest in vaccination and as supplies increase. This is particularly relevant this season because of the potential for a second winter outbreak of H1N1 that could impact adults harder than the fall outbreak did.

For the above reasons, we must balance the priority of continuing vaccination of the ACIP target population with opening access to vaccine for all adults who would like to be protected. Consequently, beginning at the end of this week, King County healthcare providers are permitted to vaccinate any person 6 months of age and older who desires to be protected against influenza A H1N1. Similar changes are also planned in Washington's other counties.

In order to assure that ACIP target population patients have access to vaccination, Public Health will continue to prioritize allocation of 0.5ml preservative-free formulations as needed to meet demand among pregnant and post-partum women and will continue to prioritize allocation of H1N1 vaccine to providers with ongoing unmet needs among ACIP target population patients. Health care providers who do not request refills on their initial orders will not receive additional shipments until such requests are received.

- Public Health's H1N1 information: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/h1n1>
- Information about vaccine supply and distribution in King County: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/health>
- ACIP 2009 H1N1 vaccine recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>