



Pandemic H1N1 Vaccine Sequencing

November 20, 2009

Sequencing for expansion of the prioritization of groups to receive pandemic H1N1 vaccine is as follows:

New groups now eligible:

- All British Columbians who need and want to be immunized against the H1N1 flu virus are now eligible to receive the vaccine

B.C. expects to receive an additional 258,000 doses of vaccine today and anticipates receiving approximately 640,000 doses late next week. In total, 1.16 million doses of the vaccine have already been delivered to British Columbia.

Note: See the H1N1 vaccine dosing recommendations found at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/vacc/recommendation-recommandation-eng.php> for type of vaccine to use (adjuvanted or unadjuvanted), and for children dose quantity and whether to give one or two doses.

As with most vaccines, there have rare reports of anaphylaxis and so patients should be asked to sit for 15 minutes after the immunization in case they develop any symptoms that may need treatment.

Groups Eligible Week of October 26:

- People under 65 with chronic health conditions¹
- Women in the second half of pregnancy, any pregnant women with chronic health conditions, and pregnant women in the first half of pregnancy with informed consent
- Residents of remote communities where access to timely health care services is very limited

¹ “Chronic health conditions” includes:

- cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis and asthma);
- diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases;
- cancer, immunodeficiency, immunosuppression (due to underlying disease and/or therapy);
- renal disease;
- chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C
- anemia or hemoglobinopathy;
- conditions that compromise the management of respiratory secretions and are associated with an increased risk of aspiration; or
- children and adolescents with conditions treated for long periods with acetylsalicylic acid.

Groups Eligible Added Week of November 2:

- Children aged 6 months to under 60 months of age
- Household contacts younger than 65 years old of infants under 6 months of age and of immunocompromised people
- Health care workers, including office-based physicians and staff, on a priority basis at their workplace with those delivering critical care and front-line services as a first priority

Groups added week of November 9:

- Women in the first half of pregnancy - During the week of November 9th, an unadjuvanted H1N1 vaccine was made available in BC under an Interim Order of the federal minister of health. This vaccine is indicated for use in pregnancy and priority should be given to women in the first half of pregnancy as there are no systematically collected data on use of adjuvanted influenza vaccines. Family doctors providing obstetrical care, obstetricians, and midwives should contact their local health unit to order for these patients.

Groups added week of November 16:

- People 65 years of age and over with chronic health conditions
- Healthy children from 5 years to 18 years inclusive
- Health care workers delivering acute care, long term care, home care, and public health services
- First responders

Any further weekly updates will be provided on this website
(www.hls.gov.bc.ca/pho/physh1n1.html)



P.R.W. Kendall
OBC, MBBS, MHSc, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer



Eric R. Young
MD, BSc, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Deputy Provincial Health Officer