

Tarrant County Flu Information

Novel H1N1 Vaccine Recommendations

The target groups recommended to receive the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated.
- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants from the virus.
- **Health care and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among health-care workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce health-care system capacity.
- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age:**
 - **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because there have been many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day-care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread.
 - **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because there have been many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults and they often live, work and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population.
- **People 25 through 64 years of age who have health conditions associated with a higher risk of medical complications from influenza.**

NOTE: These recommendations [issued on 7/29] were determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not expect that there will be a shortage of the H1N1 vaccine, but flu vaccine availability and demand can be unpredictable and there is some possibility that initially, the vaccine will be available in limited quantities.

