

## PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 INFLUENZA (HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA)

## VACCINATION UPDATE # 2: 21 September 2009

## GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES

*Please distribute this information to all of your practice staff***Key points**

1. The Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccination program is expected to commence on Wednesday 30 September 2009 for people aged 10 and over.
2. Anyone who wishes to be protected from pandemic influenza is eligible for the vaccine. Priority groups for the vaccine include persons who are at increased risk for severe disease and their family and carers.
3. Order vaccine as soon as possible through the NSW Vaccine Centre, if not already ordered.

**Background**

**Panvax (®) H1N1 Pandemic influenza vaccine (CSL)** has been developed to protect people against pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus. The vaccine will be provided free to the general public through public and private health providers. The vaccine will not be available via the PBS or private script. The vaccine is registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The vaccination program is expected to commence on Wednesday 30 September. Vaccine will be distributed from Tuesday 22 September to hospitals, some aged care facilities, GPs and Aboriginal Medical Services.

**Vaccine information:**

- Panvax (®) is manufactured in the same way as seasonal influenza vaccines. It will be distributed in packs of either 5mL (10 dose - RED) or 10mL (18 dose - BLUE) multi-dose vials (MDV) containing thiomersal as preservative.
- The vaccine is currently available only to people aged 10 years and over. Further information regarding dosage in children (aged 6 months to 9 years) is awaiting the results of clinical trials, and may be available later in October.
- Clinical trials have indicated that a single 15mcg (0.5mL) dose is likely to provide protection to people aged 10 years and over.
- Always use a new needle and syringe for each patient and never re-enter a multi-dose vial with any used injecting equipment. Free vaccination packs (disposable items for vaccination, including syringes and needles) can be ordered with the vaccine supply.
- Multidose vial guidelines are available on the NSW Health website.
- Vaccine must be stored at 2-8°C. See the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for Five*. Unused vaccine in MDVs must be discarded at 24 hours after opening.

**Priority groups**

Whilst the vaccine is available to anyone who wants to be protected from pandemic influenza, it is especially important that people at increased risk of severe disease and those who care for them are vaccinated. A complete list of those in priority groups is available from the NSW Health website.

**Ordering vaccine and vaccination packs (VacPacs)**

Order your vaccine and vaccination packs as soon as possible. Order forms are available on the NSW Health website. Fax your completed order form to the NSW Vaccine Centre on 1800 041 528. Initial orders already received will be dispatched after the 22 September.

For the latest information on the vaccination program please refer to the NSW Health H1N1 influenza 09 website at: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>. This website will be updated regularly.

**For more information, please call your local public health unit.**

Camperdown/L'pool	02 9515 9420	Penrith	02 4734 2022	Broken Hill	08 8080 1499	Newcastle	02 4924 6477
Gosford	02 4349 4845	Randwick	02 9382 8333	Dubbo	02 6841 5569	Port Macquarie	02 6588 2750
Hornsby	02 9477 9400	Albury	02 6080 8900	Goulburn	02 4824 1837	Tamworth	02 6767 8630
Parramatta	02 9840 3603	Bathurst	02 6339 5601	Lismore	02 6620 7500	Wollongong	02 4221 6700

Yours sincerely



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