

## Swine or H1N1 Flu Information for Asthma Patients

1. If you have asthma, you should get **both** the H1N1 and seasonal flu **shots** when each is available. **Do NOT get the nasal spray vaccine**, which could trigger asthma symptoms or an attack.
2. If you have asthma and get the flu, see a healthcare professional promptly, because you are at greater risk of becoming severely ill with flu complications very quickly.
3. If you care for children with asthma, get the H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines to protect them.
4. Priority groups for H1N1 flu vaccine are:
  - a. Pregnant women
  - b. Health care workers and first responder/emergency personnel
  - c. People who live with or care for children under the age of 6 months
  - d. Children between the ages of 6 months – 24 years old (children under the age of 10 need 2 vaccine doses given 28 days apart)
  - e. Adults between the ages of 25 – 64 years with chronic health disorder/compromised immune system
5. The H1N1 vaccine is safe. If you have asthma, the risks are far greater not getting the vaccine.

For more information visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

To ask a flu question visit [www.flu.gov/ask.html](http://www.flu.gov/ask.html)

## Swine or H1N1 Flu Information for Allergy Patients

If you have a **severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs, or to any other substance that could be in the H1N1 flu vaccine (i.e. latex, gelatin, etc.)** you should check with your physician before receiving any flu vaccine.

For more information on egg allergies and flu vaccines visit these links:

[http://www.aaaai.org/media/h1n1/egg\\_allergy\\_li.pdf](http://www.aaaai.org/media/h1n1/egg_allergy_li.pdf)

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/should-not-vacc.htm#h1n1>

For more H1N1 flu information visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

To ask a flu question visit [www.flu.gov/ask.html](http://www.flu.gov/ask.html)

Supporting links for items above:

Asthma

[http://www.aaaai.org/scripts/upload/media/h1n1/Rank\\_and\\_Lipdf.pdf](http://www.aaaai.org/scripts/upload/media/h1n1/Rank_and_Lipdf.pdf)

<http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/healthconditions/asthma/>

H1N1 Vaccine Safety

<http://answers.flu.gov/questions/4240>


Latex & Gelatin Allergy Links:

[http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/b\\_contraindications\\_guide-508.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/b_contraindications_guide-508.pdf)

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/faqs-nipinfo-general.htm> (see text below)

**Please address the latex component in vaccine stoppers in relation to patients with latex allergies.**

If a person reports a severe (anaphylactic) allergy to latex, vaccines supplied in vials or syringes that contain natural rubber should not be administered, unless the benefit of vaccination outweighs the risk of an allergic reaction to the vaccine. For latex allergies other than anaphylactic allergies (e.g., a history of contact allergy to latex gloves), vaccines supplied in vials or syringes that contain dry natural rubber or natural rubber latex can be administered.

Allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis) after vaccination procedures are rare. Only one report of an allergic reaction after administering hepatitis B vaccine in a patient with known severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to latex has been published. [ACIP General Recommendations](#)  (see page 31) (2/13/03)