

Get vaccinated – important facts

- Vaccination against pandemic H1N1 influenza or swine flu is safe and effective
- In Australia in 2009 there were almost 200 deaths and 700 admissions to intensive care associated with the H1N1 pandemic
- Around one third of those who died were healthy before getting the virus
- Almost 75% of children hospitalised with swine flu had no underlying conditions or illness
- The free vaccine is available for everyone in Australia, including children from six months of age
- The vaccine is free* for all people – unlike the seasonal vaccine which is only free for some
- The flu season overseas started earlier than expected and was dominated by the pandemic strain
- Vaccinating school age children will protect the child and help reduce the chance of school-based outbreaks

*GPs may charge a consultation fee



Ongoing monitoring

As with all vaccines, the safety of the pandemic H1N1 vaccine is being carefully monitored by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Reports of adverse events can be made on-line at www.tga.gov.au or by calling 180 2007.

Where do I get the vaccine?

Vaccination is available at a range of locations, including GP practices, vaccination clinics, hospitals and health centres.

For information on where to get your vaccination, call 180 2007 or visit the website at www.healthemergency.gov.au



Australian Government

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Protect yourself, your family and the community from swine flu – the virus harming thousands of people



Get your FREE swine flu vaccine NOW



Australian Government

Protect yourself, your family and your community

Pandemic H1N1 – swine flu – vaccine

Swine flu was the dominant form of flu in 2009 in Australia and is expected to be in 2010.

In 2009, there were 191 deaths and around 700 admissions to intensive care associated with pandemic influenza in Australia.

Young and healthy people are affected by swine flu – around one third of people who died from it did not have preexisting illnesses or chronic health conditions.

Almost 75% of all children under 10 years of age who were hospitalised with swine flu had no known underlying illnesses or medical conditions that made them more vulnerable to this virus.

Over half of the hospital admissions for swine flu were under 35 years old.

People worldwide continue to be infected and evidence suggests swine flu could return to Australia much earlier than the normal flu season.

Getting your free vaccine as soon as possible can help stop this flu harming your family and spreading. The vaccine is available for everyone in Australia, including children from six months of age.



Can I be sure the vaccine is safe?

Yes. The Panvax® H1N1 vaccine has been tested in adults and children and is as safe as the seasonal flu vaccine, which is given to millions of Australians every year. It is made in Australia by CSL Limited, which has been making vaccines such as this for 50 years. The vaccine does not contain any 'live' flu virus and cannot cause influenza.

Why should I be thinking about this now?

The pandemic influenza resurfaced overseas much earlier than expected and within weeks of its reappearance thousands of people were infected – many suffering severe or fatal infections. This may be the case in the upcoming Australian flu season.

Some people are more at risk of death or hospitalisation if they catch this flu including pregnant women, Indigenous Australians and those with underlying health conditions. Speak to your GP if you have any health conditions in case this puts you at increased risk.

Why can't I wait for the seasonal flu vaccine?

The seasonal vaccine won't be available before Autumn 2010 and priority is given to older people and those with medical conditions.

Also, other than those people who are eligible for free seasonal flu vaccine (such as people aged 65 years and older), most Australians must pay for seasonal flu vaccine.

While the 2010 seasonal flu vaccine includes protection against pandemic H1N1 influenza and other flu strains, there will not be enough for the whole population.

Are there any side-effects?

The potential side-effects of the vaccine are similar to those associated with seasonal flu shots. Most commonly, they can include some swelling, redness and/or soreness at the injection site. Other reactions, such as fever, headache, tiredness and muscle aches are also fairly common.

Allergic reactions are uncommon after vaccination, but can be severe in some people. People who have a severe allergy to eggs should not get the Panvax® H1N1 vaccine. If you're unsure, talk to your doctor.

Pregnancy and infants

The Panvax® H1N1 vaccine, just like the seasonal flu vaccine, is safe for mum and her unborn baby at any stage of pregnancy. Vaccination is recommended by Australian health authorities.

Parents and guardians of infants up to six months old should get vaccinated to protect their infant who is too young to be vaccinated.



Protect yourself, your family and your community by getting the free* swine flu vaccine now



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