
FLU SEASON IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!

1. Seasonal Flu:

People 65 and older should get their seasonal flu shot this year, as always.

2. H1N1 Flu (2009):

People 65 and older are not in a target group recommended to get the earliest doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. This is because people age 65 and older are least likely to get sick with the 2009 H1N1 virus.

Because there will be limited amounts of H1N1 vaccine available at first, the first doses are recommended for those who are most likely to get infected-- the high risk and younger groups

The U.S. government has purchased 250 million doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine, so **eventually anyone who wants to get the H1N1 vaccine will have the opportunity to do so.**

TIERED PRIORITY GROUPS FOR VACCINATION:

Tier 1:

- Pregnant women,
- Children aged 6 months to 4 years,
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants aged <6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and daycare providers),
- Health-care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material,
- Children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years that have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications (e.g. asthma, diabetes, heart or lung conditions, and suppressed immune system).

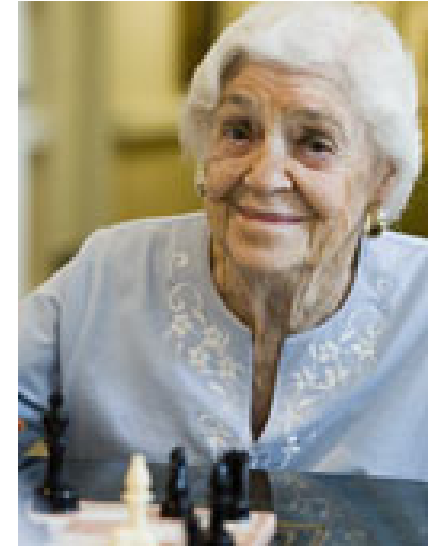
Tier 2:

- All health-care and emergency medical services personnel,
- All persons aged 6 months to 24 years, and,
- Persons aged 25 to 64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and kidney disease).

Tier 3:

All others requesting vaccination, and **persons over age 65.**

65 and Older? *H1N1 and You*



"Health experts believe many older adults may have been exposed to a similar virus decades ago and *their bodies remember the immune response...*" --AARP

PEOPLE 65 YEARS AND OLDER AND 2009 H1N1 FLU

Health Officials and Providers need your help!

Please be patient.

People younger than 65 need to be vaccinated first because they are at most risk.

"To our Seniors: thank you for your understanding."

We need to vaccinate your grandkids and your kids first."

***-Vaira Harik
Cochise County Health Director***

The new 2009 H1N1 virus does not seem to be affecting people 65 years and older in the same way that seasonal flu usually does.

Most people who have gotten sick from this new virus have been younger. In fact, people 65 and older are the group that is least likely to get infected with this new virus. There have been relatively few infections and even fewer cases of serious illness and death with this new virus in people older than 65.

Laboratory tests on blood samples indicate that older people likely have some pre-existing immunity to the 2009 H1N1 flu virus.

But while people 65 and older are the least likely to be infected with 2009 H1N1 flu, those that do become infected are at greater risk of having serious complications from their illness.

"People 65 and older are the group that is least likely to get infected with this new virus..."

-Source: CDC

Updated information about swine flu in the US can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

Arizona-specific information about swine flu can be found at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/>.

Cochise County will publish updates, as needed, on its website at:

<http://cochise.az.gov/h1n1>.

**Cochise County H1N1
Hotline:**

520-432-9410

For updated clinic and vaccine availability information.

