

# Sharp and to the Point

## Special edition on the National Pandemic H1N1 Influenza 09 Vaccination Program

The Australian Government is planning to introduce a vaccination program in response to the current H1N1 influenza pandemic. The vaccine is expected to be available in September. The program will only commence when either the vaccine is registered with the TGA or the CMO advises that vaccine studies indicate the vaccine should be released. Dosage regimen will depend on the results of the vaccination trial. Further information with exact details will be made available as it becomes available.

### Who should receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine?

The target groups to be vaccinated will be Health Care Workers who have direct contact with patients (including general practice staff), all those with chronic disease including chronic cardiac, respiratory, neurological and renal conditions, immunosuppression, haemoglobinopathies, morbid obesity (BMI>35), diabetes, and other chronic metabolic disorders. Also included in the priority groups are all indigenous persons and all pregnant women in the 2nd and 3rd trimester.

It is very important that all providers begin considering the best way of targeting the priority groups and the best way of efficiently delivering the vaccine.

### Does this include indigenous children and children with chronic disease?

The vaccine should not be given to children less than 10 years of age until further safety data is available. This data is not expected until mid to late October.

### Who will deliver the H1N1 influenza vaccine?

In South Australia the vaccine will initially be distributed by SA Health to General Practice, all hospitals, participating Aged Care Facilities, and all Aboriginal Health Services. Other community providers will receive the vaccine as supplies become available.

### How will providers receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine?

Unlike seasonal flu vaccine where SA Health receives the total allocation in one delivery, the manufacturing process of the H1N1 influenza vaccine will be staggered over 4 – 5 months. Dependent on the start date of the program, there may not be sufficient supply to distribute vaccine to all immunisation providers (including GPs) in time for the start of the program. All immunisation providers will have received some vaccine by late September/early October.

Vaccine may be distributed in advance of approval to use. It should not be administered until the CMO had advised that it can be released.

Your first delivery of vaccine will not be through the routine ordering process; instead the number of doses you will receive will be allocated by the Vaccine Distribution Centre. All subsequent doses must be ordered through the specific H1N1 vaccine order form that you will receive with your first vaccine delivery. You will be notified of the date of your first delivery of vaccine in the near future.



## Presentation of H1N1 influenza vaccine

The vaccine will be presented in multi-dose vials. Each box of vaccine will contain either 50 vials or 10 vials. Each vial will contain H1N1 Influenza 09 vaccine as 15micrograms / 0.5ml.

The bulk of the vaccine will be available in boxes of 100 doses. However the initial supply will be in boxes of 900 and 180 doses.

## How should the vaccine be stored?

Vaccines are delicate biological substances that can become less effective or even destroyed if they are frozen or exposed to heat and/or light.

The vaccine should be stored in a dedicated medication fridge which is kept between 2 and 8 degrees C and monitored at least twice a day. Strive for 5 degrees C as this gives greater protection from temperature fluctuations.

## What resources will be available?

Each provider will receive a vaccination pack with syringes, needles and possibly other materials required for delivery of mass vaccination. You will receive the vaccination packs close to the time you will be receiving the vaccine.

Information and resources will also be distributed prior to you receiving the vaccine including information on eligible groups, best practice use of multi-dose vials, Adrenaline dosage chart, H1N1 Standing Drug Order, Adrenaline Standing Drug Order and vaccine safety pads.

## Consent forms

The Commonwealth are developing a consent form which will be distributed in pads of 50 or 100 at the same time as the vaccine. There will also be a frequently asked questions sheet for providers to go through with vaccine recipients.

## Additional information

We recommend providers familiarise themselves with the SA Health Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Plan which can be found at [www.pandemicinfluenza.sa.gov.au/SouthAustralianPlans.aspx](http://www.pandemicinfluenza.sa.gov.au/SouthAustralianPlans.aspx)

Parts B & C will be most relevant to providers.

Further information and advice will also continue to be made available through the website [www.flu.sa.gov.au](http://www.flu.sa.gov.au) and through fax streams.

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## For more information

**As this situation is evolving, please visit our website [www.flu.sa.gov.au](http://www.flu.sa.gov.au) regularly for up to date information. Additional resources will also be made available on the website as they become available.**