



Marion County

OREGON

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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H1N1 Vaccine has Arrived in Marion County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have begun distributing 3.4 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine throughout the United States. Marion County received 3,200 doses of this vaccine on October 5th. Marion County's current supply of H1N1 vaccine is in the form of FluMist, a nasal spray. FluMist may only be given to those between the ages of 2-49 who are healthy and not pregnant.

At this time, Marion County is only distributing the received vaccine to hospitals, pediatricians, EMS/Fire Departments, and some area schools. The first shipments of vaccine will be for priority groups because they are most likely to suffer complications from flu. The vaccine is expected to be available for everyone who wants it later this fall.

According to the CDC, priority groups that should receive their H1N1 flu vaccination as soon as the vaccine is available to them are:

- Anyone six months to 24 years old
- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and care givers for children younger than six months of age
- People aged 25-64 with medical conditions such as asthma, immune deficiencies, etc.
- Health care and emergency service personnel

Marion County Health Department will distribute the vaccine it receives according to priority groups as set by the CDC. The priority groups were established to help deal with an initial shortage of vaccine. "We appreciate the public's patience as they wait to receive their vaccine," says Marion County Health Officer Dr. Karen Landers. "There will be enough vaccine for everyone, but it will take time for all the doses to arrive." Marion County will continue to disperse the vaccine to local partners as it is received.

Marion County expects to receive weekly shipments of the H1N1 vaccine after this initial shipment. The subsequent shipments are expected to contain more doses of the H1N1 vaccine, including an injectable form of the vaccine, which is appropriate for people ages 6 months and older, including pregnant women or those who have chronic health conditions. Only one dose of vaccine will be needed for those ten and older. For children under the age of ten, the initial vaccine dose will need to be followed by a booster dose about four weeks later.

If you receive a seasonal influenza nasal spray vaccine, there is a 28-day waiting period until you can receive the H1N1 influenza nasal spray vaccine. There is no wait time between the seasonal influenza shot and either the H1N1 shot or H1N1 nasal spray. You can receive a seasonal flu shot and H1N1 flu shot on the same day.

Marion County Health Department would like to remind community members that covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and staying home when sick are also important methods to help prevent the spread of both the H1N1 and seasonal flu.

Information is being updated daily concerning the H1N1 pandemic flu. Please visit the following websites for more information:

<http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PH/Epid/flu/>

<http://www.flu.oregon.gov>

<http://www.flu.gov>

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