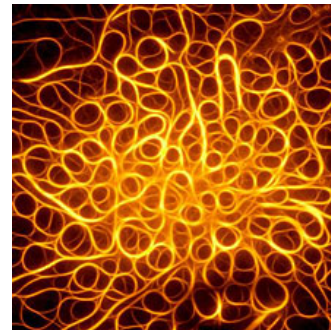


## *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness*

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### Latest Developments

*Scroll down for special guidance on flu vaccine categories.*



**White House Pandemic Flu Teleconference** (October 9, 2009). The White House Office of Engagement hosted a series of topic-specific teleconferences to inform the public on current news, issues and developments surrounding the outbreak of the 2009 novel H1N1 pandemic flu in the United States and world-wide. The call on October 9<sup>th</sup> dealt specifically with H1N1 flu and people with disabilities.

Hosted by Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy the teleconference included presentations from senior staff of US Department of Health and Human Services as well the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including Mark Swanson, M.D., the new head of CDC's disabilities desk.

Presentations offered a general overview of the progression of the H1N1 virus in the US as well as plans to vaccinate the public. were discussed and Dr. Rosa Lee of the USDHHS Office of Disabilities made a clear statement that those with neuro-cognitive disease and *intellectual disabilities* were specifically included in those groups considered to be especially vulnerable and therefore, warranted prioritization in the early distribution of the 2009 monovalent H1N1 vaccine. In response to additional questions, Dr. Mark Swanson assured the listeners that published guidance from CDC would be issued this week affirming the CDC's intention to include individuals with intellectual disabilities receiving community services in the prioritization plans for the distribution of the vaccine. When asked about whether this guidance would include the prioritization of those that provide care to the community of those with intellectual disabilities, Dr. Swanson replied that the guidance was non-specific and would apply to both paid as well as un-paid caregivers. (*Thanks to Chuck Bruder and Rie Kennedy-Lizotte for the call summary*)

Information on Initial Target Groups to receive the H1N1 vaccine and other key facts can be found at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine\\_keyfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_keyfacts.htm). The section on initial target groups includes links to [Revised Guidance for People at High Risk of Complications After Contracting the Disease](#) (October 8, 2009) identifying individuals with "Neurological disorders (such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, brain or spinal cord injuries, moderate to profound intellectual disability [mental retardation])

or developmental delay)" as being among the groups to receive priority access to the H1N1 vaccine. See also, <http://flu.gov/>.

[H1N1 Clinicians Questions and Answers](#). Although not specifically addressing issues related to increased vulnerability of people with cognitive disabilities and other conditions, this new posting from the CDC offers pretty good Q and As on the distribution of the vaccine.

CDC Issues Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for Live, Intranasal 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine (PDF) <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-laiv-h1n1.pdf>. Oct 2, 2009. [Spanish translation of "Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\) for Inactivated 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine" \(PDF\)](#)

Questions and Answers 2009 H1N1 Nasal Spray Vaccine  
[http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/nasalspray\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/nasalspray_qa.htm).

CDC Issues Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for Inactivated 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine (PDF)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-inact-h1n1.pdf>. Oct. 2, 2009.

**Do you have the Flu?**

A new website, [H1N1 Response Center](#), was launched by Microsoft Corp. to help people decide if they have the flu and need to see a doctor. Meant for people over 12 years of age, the site uses a self-assessment tool licensed from Emory University. A list of flu signs that should prompt a patient to seek medical care has been posted by the [CDC](#).

**What You Should Know About Flu Antiviral Drugs 2009 H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Factsheet:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/Antiviral\\_H1N1\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/2009-10/pdf/Antiviral_H1N1_factsheet.pdf)

**Questions and Answers on 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Financing.** October 1, 2009.  
**General Financing Questions.** Considerations of financing distinguish between those related to the vaccine itself, the ancillary supplies needed to administer the vaccine, and the actual administration of the vaccine.

[http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/statelocal/vaccine\\_financing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/statelocal/vaccine_financing.htm)

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists (Activity levels indicate geographic spread of both seasonal and 2009 influenza A [H1N1] viruses).** Posted October 15, 2009

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

## **Resources for State DD Agencies**

Utah Division of Services for People with Disabilities letter to provider agencies on H1N1 Influenza vaccination procedures (see attached)

Oregon Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Q and A Sheet on Seasonal and H1N1 Influenzas (attached).

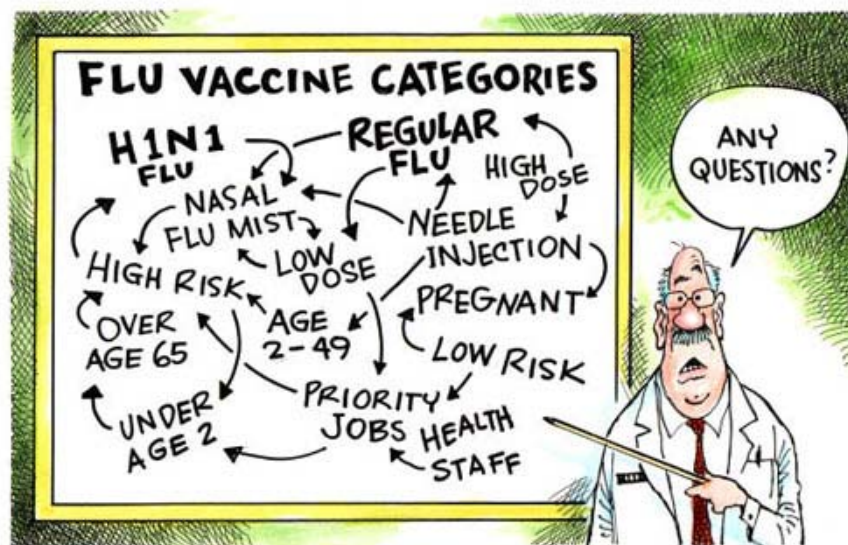
**PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS IN THE WORKPLACE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.** [http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic\\_flu.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic_flu.html).

This technical assistance document provides information about Titles I and V of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) and pandemic planning in the workplace. It identifies established ADA principles that are relevant to questions frequently asked about workplace pandemic planning such as:

- How much information may an employer request from an employee who calls in sick, in order to protect the rest of its workforce when an influenza pandemic appears imminent?
- When may an ADA-covered employer take the body temperature of employees during a pandemic?
- Does the ADA allow employers to require employees to stay home if they have symptoms of the pandemic influenza virus?
- When employees return to work, does the ADA allow employers to require doctors' notes certifying their fitness for duty?

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Recommendations regarding the necessary respiratory protection for healthcare workers in their workplace against novel H1N1 influenza A (nH1N1). Prepared at the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (see attached).

## Special Guidance on Flu Vaccine Categories



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