

NASAL SPRAY VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the H1N1 Nasal Spray Vaccine (2009 H1N1 Live Attenuated Intranasal Vaccine)

Who can be vaccinated with the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine?

The H1N1 nasal spray vaccine is for healthy people 2 to 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

Who should not be vaccinated with the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine?

- People with severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs or to any other substance in the vaccine.
- People younger than 2 years old or people older than 50 years old.
- Pregnant women.
- Anyone with a long-term health problem such as:
 - Heart disease
 - Lung disease
 - Asthma
 - Kidney or liver disease
 - Metabolic disease such as diabetes
 - Anemia and other blood disorders
 - Illnesses that weaken the immune system.
- Children under 5 years old with a history of recurrent wheezing or asthma.
- Children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment.
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare disorder of the nervous system.
- Anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders (such as cerebral palsy) that can lead to breathing or swallowing problems.

Can the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine be given to people with chronic diseases other than the ones listed above?

No. The H1N1 nasal spray vaccine is approved for use only in healthy people 2 to 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

How many doses of the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine are needed?

One dose of the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine is recommended for healthy people age 10 - 49 years old who are not pregnant. Children 2 - 9 years old will need a second dose, 3 to 4 weeks after they get their first dose.

Can the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine be given to people who are sick?

You can give it only to people with minor illnesses such as diarrhea or mild upper respiratory tract infection (with or without fever). If someone has nasal congestion that might limit delivery of the vaccine to the nasal lining, think about not giving the nasal spray vaccine until the nasal congestion is reduced.

Can people receiving the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine pass the vaccine virus to others?

Studies have shown that spreading of the vaccine viruses to others is rare. The current estimated risk of getting infected this way is low (0.6%-2.4%).



Can others who are in close contact with people with weakened immune systems get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine?

- People who are in contact with individuals with **severely weakened immune systems** should **NOT get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine**.
- People who have contact with individuals with lesser degrees of immunosuppression **CAN get H1N1 nasal spray vaccine**. Examples are people with diabetes, people with asthma taking corticosteroids, people who have recently received chemotherapy or radiation but who are not being cared for in a protective environment as defined above, or people infected with HIV.

Can people who get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine visit patients in the hospital?

Hospital visitors who have received the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine can visit people with lesser degrees of immunosuppression (patients with diabetes, asthmatics taking corticosteroids, or patients infected with HIV). They should avoid contact with severely immunosuppressed persons in protected environments for 7 days after vaccination.

Why is the CDC encouraging H1N1 nasal spray vaccination for healthcare workers? Especially when supplies of inactivated influenza vaccine are limited?

If healthcare workers get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine now, it could make more flu shots available when it arrives. For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5502a1.htm>

Are there any reasons breastfeeding mothers should not get the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine?

No. The nasal spray vaccine is safe for both the breastfeeding mother and baby. For more information about breastfeeding and the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine, go to www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5306a1.htm

For more information, please go to:

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

CDC Questions & Answers on LAIV: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/nasalspray.htm>

Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for Live, Intranasal 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flulive.pdf>