

CDC Current and Recent Key Messages, November 20, 2009

2009 H1N1 Vaccine Supply

- **2009 H1N1 Vaccine Allocation.** Total available as of Nov. 20 is **54.1** million doses (about 23 percent is nasal spray).

Influenza Illness and Disease

- **Although we are beginning to see some gradual declines in influenza activity, there is still a lot of influenza everywhere.** 43 states are reporting widespread activity, down from 46 states. Even though we saw a little bit of a decrease this week, flu activity across the country is still higher than the peak influenza activity in many years.
- Influenza season typically goes from December to May. **Nothing is typical about this year's influenza season.**

2009 H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza Vaccines

- **The 2009 H1N1 vaccine supply continues to increase.** We're not where we want to be, but available vaccine is being quickly ordered and shipped and we are in better shape today than we were a couple weeks ago.
- 54.1 million doses available for ordering as of today which is 11 million more doses than last Friday. As of Wednesday, 93% of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine that is available to be ordered had been ordered.
- 94.5 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine has been distributed around the country.

Holiday Travel – CDC kicks off new effort to help travelers stay healthy

- **One of the most important things that people can do is to travel only when feeling well.**
 - People with the flu or flu-like illness should wait to travel until at least 24 hours after their fever has subsided without using fever-reducing medicines.
 - If people get sick while traveling, they should postpone traveling home until well.
 - The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

Antiviral Drugs

- **Don't delay antiviral medication treatment.** If your doctor prescribes Tamiflu® (oseltamivir) or Relenza® (zanamivir) for you, don't delay filling the prescription, and start taking the medication as soon as you get it. This way you will get the most benefit. It's very important that antiviral drugs be started as soon as possible for the flu, ideally within 2 days of getting sick.

2009 H1N1 Priority Groups (in reference to questions about Santas)

- Presently, five groups have been prioritized to receive 2009 H1N1 vaccination: pregnant women, people who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings, and day care providers), health care and emergency medical services personnel, people 6 months through 24 years of age (especially those with higher risk for influenza-related complications like children younger than 5 years and those who have high risk medical conditions), and people 25 years through 64 years of age who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.