



PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 VACCINATION PROGRAM Summary for General Practice

Priority groups

All people aged six months and older can, and should, be offered vaccination against pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza.

Vaccination is still especially important for groups identified as being at highest risk from pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza, including:

- Children (six months and older) and adults with underlying chronic medical conditions including:
 - Chronic respiratory conditions, including asthma and COPD
 - Immunosuppression, including HIV/AIDS and use of immunosuppressive drugs
 - Cancer
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Cardiac disease, excluding simple hypertension
 - Chronic renal disease
 - Chronic metabolic diseases
 - Haemoglobinopathies
 - Chronic neurological diseases
- Individuals with moderate to severe obesity, BMI>35
- Health care and community care workers (including volunteers and students)
- Indigenous people (including Indigenous children aged six months and older) and remote and isolated communities with vulnerable people
- Children in special schools
- Parents and guardians of children aged 0 to 6 months
- Pregnant women

The vaccine is available to general practices and other immunisation service providers using the same distribution arrangements as for vaccines in the National Immunisation Program.

Dosage and administration

Panvax® H1N1 vaccine is administered by intramuscular or deep subcutaneous injection, usually in the upper arm.

The vaccine is produced by CSL Limited in two sizes of multi-dose vial containing a nominal 5 mL or 10mL of vaccine respectively. **The dosage for adults and children aged 10 years and over is one dose of 15 micrograms in 0.5mL.**

Dosages in children 6 months to 9 years

The recommended dosage for children aged 6 months to 9 years of age is two doses, given to **at least 28 days apart**.

The dosages are:

- Children aged 6-35 months: Two doses of 0.25mL per dose (7.5 micrograms)
- Children aged 36 months-9years: Two doses of 0.5mL per dose (15 micrograms)

Using multi-dose vials

Guidelines have been developed by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on how to safely handle, store and administer vaccines from multi-dose vials.

A copy of the guidelines will be provided with each vaccine order, and is also available online at www.healthemergency.gov.au

Vaccine safety for pregnant women

Pregnant women are at risk of severe complications if they catch pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza, so vaccination is strongly recommended. Similar to seasonal influenza vaccines, Panvax® H1N1 vaccine is an inactivated vaccine and is safe during all stages of pregnancy.

Contraindications

Panvax® H1N1 vaccine is contraindicated in anyone who has experienced anaphylaxis following a previous dose of any influenza vaccine, or who has experienced anaphylaxis following any vaccine component, including the antibiotics neomycin or polymyxin.

The vaccine should not be used in anyone who has experienced anaphylaxis to eggs or chicken protein.

The Product Information for Panvax® H1N1 vaccine states that immunisation must be postponed in people who have febrile illness or acute infection.

Precautions

The immunological response may be diminished if the patient is undergoing corticosteroid or immunosuppressant treatment.

Patient information sheets are provided with the vaccine for you to hand out to your patients. Printable translations of information sheets are available at www.healthemergency.gov.au