



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
October 20, 2009

## H1N1 vaccine for pregnant women and young children now available - Escambia will focus on children, pregnant women first -

PENSACOLA, FL – Escambia County (FL) has received H1N1 vaccine that can be administered to pregnant women, children, and caregivers of infants less than six months. Because the majority of vaccine is being shipped to physicians, residents should first call their pediatrician, obstetrician and/or family practice physician to find out if the vaccine has arrived at their office yet.

"We are asking the public to be patient as H1N1 vaccine arrives over the next two to three months," said Health Department Director Dr. John Lanza. "Our focus in Escambia will be to first provide vaccine to children and adolescents, pregnant women, and caregivers of infants who are less than six months old. We know that children spread the disease more readily than adults."

The Escambia County Health Department (FL), which first began offering the H1N1 vaccine on Tuesday, October 13, is focusing first on pregnant women, caregivers for infants less than six months of age, and children and adolescents in the federally-designated priority groups. This is because the virus has more severely affected pregnant women, children and adolescents. As more vaccine becomes available in the upcoming weeks, the health department will offer it to the remaining priority groups which include 18-24 year olds, healthcare/EMS workers with direct patient care responsibilities, and people ages 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

At the Escambia County Health Department (FL), the H1N1 vaccine is available as follows (this changes weekly based on vaccine shipments; check [www.EscambiaHealth.com](http://www.EscambiaHealth.com) for updates):

<b>Who should get the H1N1 vaccine now:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pregnant women</li><li>• Caregivers and those who live with infants under six months</li><li>• Children ages 6 months-18 years old</li></ul>
<b>Location</b>	Escambia County Health Department 1295 W. Fairfield Drive, Pensacola <b>(this location only)</b> (850) 595-6500 <b>(walk-in only)</b> or <a href="http://www.EscambiaHealth.com">www.EscambiaHealth.com</a>
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Walk-in Only 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday



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<b>Cost</b>	No charge for H1N1 vaccine administered at the health department
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### Weekly Update on Available Vaccine

Residents are asked to check the Health Department's website at [www.EscambiaHealth.com](http://www.EscambiaHealth.com) at least weekly for updated information. Shipments of H1N1 vaccine do not arrive at regular intervals in this early phase of the vaccine distribution process. .

### About the Priority Groups

The federal Centers for Disease Control designated five priority groups who should be the first to get the H1N1 vaccine. Those groups are:

- pregnant women;
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
- persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old; and,
- persons aged 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

In Escambia, the initial focus will be on pregnant women, children ages 6 months-18 years old, and people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age.

### Vaccination in Schools, Childcare Centers

On Thursday, October 22, the Escambia County Health Department (FL) will begin offering voluntary H1N1 vaccination through public schools beginning with C.A. Weis Elementary and West Pensacola Elementary. School-based vaccination will continue through December as long as vaccine is available. If distribution of the vaccine slows, clinics will be rescheduled. Parents will get information about the vaccine and permission forms about one week before the voluntary vaccination clinic is scheduled to be at their child's school. The Health Department is also providing vaccine to the larger child care centers in the county.

### Protection from H1N1

While Escambia's physicians and health department vaccinate the more than 100,000 residents in the priority groups, those outside the priority groups can take these steps to protect themselves:

- **Wash your hands often and the right way.** Rub soapy hands together for 15 seconds (if you need a timer, imagine singing the "ABC's" song). Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and touch the bathroom doorknob.
  - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



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- Wash your hands after using the bathroom, before and after preparing food, before and after taking care of someone who is sick, after changing diapers or cleaning up after a child who has gone to the bathroom, after handling an animal or animal waste, and when your hands are visibly dirty.
  - **Stay home if you are sick.** Keep children home if they are sick. Stay home until 24 hours after last fever without fever reducing medications. Avoid others who are sick.
  - **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue.** If you don't have a disposable tissue handy, cover or sneeze into the fabric on your sleeve.
  - **Get your seasonal flu vaccination.** As long as there is seasonal flu vaccine available, it is strongly recommended that individuals get their seasonal flu shot as well as the "pneumonia shot" for individuals with chronic disease and individuals 65 years and above.

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**Escambia County Health Department**

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[www.escambiahealth.com](http://www.escambiahealth.com)

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