

# Pandemic H1N1 2009 (Novel H1N1 or Swine Flu)

Updated September 29, 2009



Pandemic H1N1 2009 or Novel H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of novel H1N1 flu was underway.

The 2009 H1N1 flu is widespread in the United States and in North Carolina. Testing for the virus is not generally performed unless a person is hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit with a flu-like illness. People who have flu-like symptoms that cannot be attributed to another diagnosis are assumed to have H1N1 flu because it is the most common strain of flu in our community. It is expected that most people will recover without needing medical care. If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, seek medical care. Your health care provider will determine the best course of action.

## What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home and limit contact with others if you get sick.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Develop a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of food and water, medicines, facemasks, and other essential supplies.



## Sign & Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny/ Stuffy Nose
- Sore Throat
- Body Aches and Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Nausea and/ or Diarrhea

Stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Fever reducing medicine may be taken, but fever should be gone for 24 hours after taking the last dose of medicine before going back to school or work.)

## Updated Vaccine Information:

The Food & Drug Administration has approved the Pandemic H1N1 2009 Vaccine and it will likely be available to the public in mid-October. Contact your local Health Department for more information on availability. **Children 9 and younger will need to get 2 doses of the H1N1 vaccine, roughly 21 to 30 days apart. Children and adults 10 and older will need to get 1 dose of the H1N1 vaccine.**

Pandemic H1N1 2009 Vaccine distribution will be focused on the following target groups:

- Pregnant Women
- Household contacts and caregivers of children younger than 6 months
- Healthcare workers/ Emergency Medical Services personnel
- All children aged 6 months to 24 years
- Individuals 25 to 64 with health conditions associated with high risk complications from the flu

These groups have been chosen for various reasons - primarily risk of exposure, complications, and spread. The Federal Government is working to purchase enough vaccine for everyone in the country and so eventually all persons should be able to receive the vaccine.

**Don't forget to get your seasonal influenza vaccine, too!**



Pasquotank County Health Department: 252-338-4400

[www.arhs-phpr.org](http://www.arhs-phpr.org)    [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/)    [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov)