



***CIGNA Preparedness for Potential Spread of Novel H1N1 Flu
As of 8/27/2009***

Information subject to change

CIGNA continues to monitor closely the developments of the Novel H1N1 flu virus and will be following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control as well as public health guidelines in the United States and abroad.

At this time, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the CDC made the following recommendations on who should be vaccinated first –

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

If there is a shortage of the Novel H1N1 vaccine, the ACIP has made the recommendation that the following group receive the vaccine before others –

- pregnant women;
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact;
- children between the ages of 6 months through 4 years, and
- children between the ages of 5 through 18 years who have chronic medical conditions.

The vaccine will be purchased by the federal government and made available through the public health departments. CIGNA will cover the Novel H1N1 vaccine under the preventive care benefit for all covered individuals. While any applicable copays and coinsurance will be determined by the details of the account's preventive care benefit, as many as 80 percent of CIGNA customers have 100 percent coverage for preventive care benefits.

While encouraging the use of Novel H1N1 vaccine for recommended groups, CIGNA continues to promote the administration of seasonal flu vaccine through its various programs, as well as through the on-site flu clinics that CIGNA provides for different employers.

CIGNA will continue to support public health recommendations from CDC and other federal departments. There will be communications done through MyCIGNA.com. The 24 hour Health Information Line, Case Management and Health Advisor nurse teams will educate the individuals (members) they work with to provide up to date information. The individuals will be directed to their physicians/health care providers to discuss their specific care questions.

The H1N1 information concerning the availability and recommendations for the use of the vaccine is rapidly evolving. As information becomes available, CIGNA will communicate to clients and their employees through CIGNA.com and MyCIGNA.com. In addition, our 24 Hour Health Information Line, Case Management and Health Advisor teams will educate the people with whom they work to provide up-to-date information. All customers will be directed to their doctors or other health care professionals to discuss their specific care questions.

The health and safety of the individuals we serve is of primary importance to CIGNA. We will continue to support public policy and facilitate access to appropriate medical services

Further information is available at:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>)
- World Health Organization (WHO) (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>)
- US Government Pandemic Preparedness (www.pandemicflu.gov)
- International SOS Preparedness Protocols (ISOS) (<http://www.internationalsos.com/pandemicpreparedness/>)

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