



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

CDC 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. The benefit will be paid in excess of the plan maximums, will not be subject to any co-pay, and will not be applied to wellness or outpatient plan benefits. CIGNA Voluntary will cover the allowable costs for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, even if the member's benefits have been exhausted.

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 Voluntary will continue to support public health recommendations from CDC and other federal departments. There will be communications done through CIGNAVoluntary.com, Starbridge.com and the homepage of members' personalized websites. CIGNA Voluntary's Customer Service department will educate the individuals (members) 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 Voluntary will communicate to clients and their employees through CIGNAVoluntary.com and Starbridge.com.. 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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