

H1N1 FLU VACCINE DIFFERENCES

Issue	2009 H1N1 Nasal Spray	2009 H1N1 “Flu Shot”
Comparison to seasonal flu vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made just like seasonal flu vaccine • Expected to be as safe and effective as seasonal flu vaccine • Won’t prevent “influenza-like” illnesses caused by other viruses • Won’t prevent seasonal flu 	
Type of virus in vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live “weakened” virus – does not cause flu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inactive “killed” virus
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprayed into nose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injected into muscle
Preservatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No thimerosal or other preservatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some contains the preservative thimerosal to keep it free from germs
Who <u>can</u> get?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy people 2-49 years of age who are not pregnant and do not have certain health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 6 months old and older who do not have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs or any other substance in vaccine
Who should <u>not</u> get it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children younger than 2 • Adults over 49 years • Pregnant women (contacts to pregnant women can receive nasal spray) • Anyone with a weakened immune system • Anyone with long-term health problems (i.e. diabetes, asthma, heart disease, etc)¹ • Anyone with certain muscle or nerve disorders² • Anyone in close contact with a person with a severely weakened immune system requiring a protected environment • Children or adolescents on long-term aspirin treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have a severe (life-threatening) allergy to eggs or any other substance in the vaccine
Can breastfeeding women get the vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
What are the risks associated with the vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people have reported a mild reaction to vaccine that can last 1-2 days, such as running nose, nasal congestion, cough, soreness or swelling at shot site, headache, tiredness and muscle aches. • A vaccine, like any medicine, could cause a serious problem, such as a severe allergic reaction. This risk is very rare. If this happens, a few minutes to a few hours later, call a doctor right away. 	

¹ See Vaccine Information Statement for more details <http://www.publichealthmdc.com/disease/swineflu/immunization/vaccine.cfm>

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