



COMMUNIQUE FOR ALL QUEENSLAND GP's (#1) PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 VACCINATION PROGRAM

The new Panvax® H1N1 vaccine is about to roll-out to health care workers and vulnerable people in the community to protect those most at risk from severe complications if they contract the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus.

The **start date of the program has not yet been confirmed** by the Commonwealth, however it is anticipated it will commence as soon as possible.

The Commonwealth and all States and Territories have agreed the following groups are to be included in Tier 1 (initial phase) of the vaccination program:

- Individuals with chronic disease (eg: heart, liver, renal etc)
- Individuals with respiratory disease (eg: asthma, COPD)
- Individuals with immunosuppression
- Obese individuals with a body mass index (BMI) of over 35
- Indigenous Australians
- Pregnant women
- Parents and guardians of children aged between 0 – 6 months
- Children in special schools
- Frontline healthcare workers including community and aged care and disability service workers

Additionally, anyone who wishes to protect themselves from Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection can be offered vaccine.

What we can confirm

- The formulation of Panvax® H1N1 is the same as seasonal influenza vaccine except that it contains antigen from only one strain of influenza and protects against Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza.
- The vaccine will be supplied in multi-dose vials (MDVs) and will contain the preservative, thiomersal.
- The vaccine should not be given to children under 10 years of age until later in the program, as clinical trial data for children isn't yet available. This data is expected in late October or November
- Initial clinical data suggests one 15 µg dose (0.5ml) will be sufficient for adult vaccination. However GPs should plan in case a second dose does become necessary.
- Interim clinical trial results have been provided to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for evaluation.

What we can't confirm

- When the vaccine will be registered by the TGA;
- The start date of the program.

What you can do as a GP right now

- Read the information provided by CSL about the vaccine at <http://www.csl.com.au/s1/cs/auhq/1236380109044/content/1236380109063/content.htm> and <http://www.csl.com.au/docs/199/111/Media%20Release%20SwineFlu%20trial%20response.pdf>
- Refer to the Health Emergency website for updated information www.healthemergency.gov.au
- Direct any questions regarding the vaccine or the vaccination program to your local Queensland Health Population Unit or 13 HEALTH.

Further information and resources will be disseminated as these become available from the Commonwealth.

Dr Christine Selvey
State Health Incident Controller



Queensland
Government