

H1N1 influenza vaccine available to all adults starting this Saturday

Vaccine supplies for H1N1 influenza (swine flu) are increasing and are expected to continue to rise steadily. Many health care providers in King County are now reporting that they are able to meet the demand for their highest risk patients.

Given the demand among adults who are not currently eligible for H1N1 vaccine and the need to continue to vaccinate people as more vaccine becomes available, Public Health - Seattle & King County is opening up vaccination for all adults who would like to be protected against H1N1 starting this **Saturday, December 12**.

We in King County have worked closely with other local health jurisdictions and other neighboring counties are moving in the same direction in coming days.

Though flu illness seems to have peaked locally, at least temporarily, H1N1 illness continues in the community, and vaccination is the best way to protect against H1N1 influenza. More H1N1 influenza vaccine continues to arrive every week, and most vaccine is still going to local health care providers. Local pharmacies are also receiving ongoing allocations.

Starting Saturday, December 12:

Public Health is recommending that King County healthcare providers continue to aggressively vaccinate persons in target populations. This includes:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- People between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old
- People between 25 through 64 years of age with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems
- Health care and emergency workers
- In addition to persons in target populations, any person 6 months of age and older who desires to be protected against H1N1 influenza may now be vaccinated.
- In vaccination settings where demand among target populations is still high, health care providers may decide to vaccinate patients in target populations and refer patients outside of the target group to pharmacies or community clinics for vaccination.

People should continue to contact their health care providers for H1N1 vaccine. Vaccine is also available at selected local pharmacies. Free H1N1 clinics are being held today in King County for people who can't afford to pay, and additional clinics will be held in coming days.

For the latest H1N1 influenza information, visit: www.kingcounty.gov/health/H1N1