



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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HEATHER HOWARD  
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TO: Public Health and Health Care Providers

FROM: Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, FACP  
Medical Director, CDS

RE: **Administration of Second Dose of 2009 Monovalent H1N1 Vaccine for Children under the Age of Ten Years**

Children ages 6 months through 9 years of age (up to their 10th birthday) need two doses of 2009 monovalent H1N1 vaccine. While children are likely to have partial protection after a single dose, two doses are needed for full protection against this virus. It is recommended that the second dose be administered four weeks after the first dose. For the H1N1 vaccine, the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose may be given as early as 21 days after the first dose. The level of protective immunity will not be affected by a delay in receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

With limited supplies of 2009 monovalent H1N1 vaccine, providers may prioritize specific groups within the CDC target groups or take steps to ensure that vaccine is available to members of those groups. Therefore, providers may give priority to unvaccinated children over those children ages 6 months through 9 years of age (up to their 10th birthday) who have already received one dose of vaccine. This is consistent with CDC guidance. The CDC does not recommend holding vaccine in reserve for children who already have received one dose.

[http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10\\_faq.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10_faq.htm)

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Should clinics be scheduled at this time specifically for children who require a second dose of vaccine?**
  - No. Doses of vaccine should not be reserved or clinics specifically scheduled for children who have received one dose of vaccine. Because vaccine availability is expected to increase over time, vaccine should not be held in reserve for patients who already have received 1 dose but might require a second dose.
- **Parents fear their children are at risk for H1N1 infection if they do not get a second shot. What do I tell them?**
  - Although two doses are needed for full protection, children are likely to have partial protection after a single dose of vaccine. The level of protective immunity will not be affected by a delay in receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. It is important, however, to always maintain sound public health measures both for vaccinated and unvaccinated children including hand washing, cough and sneeze hygiene and staying home from schools and public gatherings if sick. Also, if the child has an underlying health condition such as asthma, parents should be sure to speak to their healthcare provider for any additional precautions.
- **What happens if I give the second vaccine to a child, am I in conflict with the CDC/ACIP guidelines the state expects me to follow?**
  - No, children remain a priority group for vaccination; providing the second vaccine does not violate your Provider Agreement as a NJ vaccine administrator. If a child is ready for a second dose, has a scheduled appointment or arrives as a walk-in, you can, on a case-by-case basis, give the second dose. However, given the limited supply of vaccine, you should not schedule clinics specifically for administering a 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine dose or reserve a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine at the time that the child receives the first dose.