

H1N1 Vaccine Information for the offices of ABC Family Pediatricians and the office of Dr. Scott Rice of the Lehigh Valley Health Network

To date, we have had a very limited supply of H1N1 vaccine available to our practice. We have been able to immunize only a small number of patients who fall into the highest risk categories as defined by the Centers for Disease Control.

Information about future shipments of H1N1 vaccine is currently not available to us from either the manufacturers or the Pennsylvania State Department of Health. However, we fully anticipate further opportunities for vaccination, and we are working with the Lehigh Valley Health Network to ensure vaccination of our patients when vaccine becomes more widely available in this area.

We strongly encourage our patients to take advantage of any vaccination opportunities offered in the community (see below). The 2009 Novel H1N1 pandemic has created a number of unique and difficult changes to the nation's vaccination system. The H1N1 vaccine is being distributed by the federal government Department of Health and Human Services, via the Centers for Disease Control. Individual physicians' offices are not able to order and stock vaccine like we do for all other immunizations. We are therefore unable to routinely schedule vaccine appointments for patients or guarantee availability of the vaccine.

Ideally, to disrupt this ongoing pandemic, our entire patient population (with the exception of patients younger than 6 months of age) should receive this vaccine as soon as it's available. However, accomplishing such a large scale, rapid vaccination will require that a majority of our patients obtain their doses through the public health system. The link below provides the latest information on vaccine availability in the Pennsylvania public health system.

Additional Resources for H1N1 Influenza Information:

- The following link to the Pennsylvania Department of Health **lists any available public vaccination sites:**

<http://www.h1n1inpa.com/vaccines/h1n1-vaccine-locations-in-pa/>

- The following links give **comprehensive H1N1 information:**

<http://www.flu.gov/index.html>

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm