



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women’s & Children’s Health Section**

1917 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1917

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

**H1N1 Local Health Department and Clinician’s Frequently Asked Questions
Updated on January 19, 2010**

1. How much longer will H1N1 vaccine be allocated to states?

The CDC’s current projections indicate that all H1N1 vaccine doses will have been delivered by the manufacturers to McKesson and allocated to states by late January, 2010. As of the week of January 4, 2010, all four McKesson distribution warehouses were full, with vaccine supplies far exceeding orders from states.

2. How much longer will the Immunization Branch continue to ship vaccine?

As of January 1, 2010, the Immunization Branch no longer will ship vaccine to providers unless the provider places an order with the branch. Vaccine orders must be placed by close of business (5:00 pm) each Tuesday for delivery the following Monday or Tuesday. We will continue to supply vaccine to those who order until there is no further vaccine available at McKesson. If you do not wish to receive additional vaccine, you do not need to complete the order survey.

To order H1N1 vaccine go to <http://www.immunizenc.com/h1n1orderform.htm> and complete the Zoomerang order form. All questions/fields on the order form are required and must be completed to ensure the order is submitted. For providers that do not have internet access vaccine orders may be submitted by calling the H1N1 helpdesk at 1-877-873-6247. Ordering via the website is the most expeditious and preferred method for submitting your vaccine order.

Each presentation of H1N1 vaccine can only be ordered in quantities of 100 doses. Orders submitted for other amounts will be rounded to the nearest multiple of 100. Vaccine orders will be fulfilled as best we can based on supplies allocated weekly by CDC. Replacement vaccine of other presentations will not be ordered to fulfill your total doses ordered.

3. When can we stop vaccinating for H1N1 influenza?

You should continue vaccinating for H1N1 influenza as long as CDC continues to recommend continuing vaccination and vaccine supplies are available. With pandemic influenza, there is a strong potential for a “third wave” of disease to occur during what is the “normal” flu season. We are only just now at the point that is normally considered the start of flu season.

4. Do we need to keep having mass vaccination clinics?

This is a local decision. In some areas of the state, demand for vaccination is still strong, and the demand is most effectively met by conducting mass vaccination clinics. In other areas where demand is not as strong, you may be able to meet the demand by offering walk-in hours at the LHD for vaccination, and by offering H1N1 vaccine to any patient who is seen in your facility on a daily basis. We also encourage you to look at ways to address the vaccination needs of the minority populations in your counties.

5. Can we still share/borrow/transfer vaccine?

Yes. We currently estimate that almost 50% of the H1N1 vaccine that has been distributed in North Carolina is still unused. Please refer to the chart on our website at www.immunizenc.org/h1n1vaccineproviders.htm for details on how to share, borrow or transfer vaccine. Please do not send unwanted vaccine back to the distributor, McKesson.

6. What do we do with expired vaccine?

When you have H1N1 vaccine that expires, please remove it from the refrigerator and label it “expired” and store it for now. We are working to determine how we will dispose of non-viable vaccine in North Carolina. Note: For wasted or expired LAIV product - if the integrity of the sprayer has been comprised in any way, the item should be disposed of as bio-hazard (red bag) trash.





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7. Can I just return the expired vaccine to McKesson or the Immunization Branch?

No. CDC has not contracted with McKesson to take returns of vaccine or supplies. It will be up to each individual state to determine how they will dispose of remaining vaccine at the end of the H1N1 vaccination campaign. We are working to determine how we will dispose of non-viable vaccine in North Carolina. Until we have a plan for vaccine disposal, please do not return vaccine to the Immunization Branch.

8. Do I still have to report doses administered each week?

Yes. Doses administered reporting provides very important information to us for surveillance and vaccine accountability purposes. As long as you have H1N1 vaccine in your inventory you must continue to report on a weekly basis. If you have not given any vaccine in a given week, then mark no doses administered on the reporting form. We currently have about 400 providers who are delinquent in their reporting of doses administered. If you have not been reporting, we encourage you to contact us and bring your doses administered numbers up to date as soon as possible.

9. We did not use the supplies sent with the H1N1 vaccine. Can we send them back to the Immunization Branch?

No. Neither the Immunization Branch nor McKesson can accept returns of ancillary supplies that were distributed with H1N1 vaccine. You may use them for other purposes or donate them.

10. Who may receive H1N1 vaccine now?

Anyone six months of age or older may receive H1N1 vaccine now. You must adhere to the approved age ranges for each brand of vaccine as set by FDA.

