



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

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## H1N1 vaccine available to healthcare workers with direct patient contact

PENSACOLA, FL – Escambia County (FL) now has additional H1N1 vaccine available and is able to serve the priority group of healthcare workers with direct patient contact. In addition to offering the vaccine at the health department's Fairfield location, more than 2,000 doses of vaccine are being sent to area hospitals who will deliver it to their workers through employee health offices. The health department continues to provide vaccine to pregnant women, children of 6 months – 18 years of age, and caregivers of infants younger than six months old.

At the Escambia County Health Department (FL), the H1N1 vaccine is available as follows (this changes weekly based on vaccine shipments; check [www.EscambiaHealth.com](http://www.EscambiaHealth.com) for updates):

<b>Who should get the H1N1 vaccine now:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pregnant women</li><li>▪ Caregivers and those who live with infants under six months</li><li>▪ Children ages 6 months -18 years old</li><li>▪ Healthcare workers with direct patient contact [Note: The vaccine may also be available through your hospital or healthcare agency; talk with your supervisor about getting it at your place of work.]</li></ul>
<b>Location</b>	Escambia County Health Department 1295 W. Fairfield Drive, Pensacola ( <b>this location only</b> ) (850) 595-6500 ( <b>walk-in only</b> ) <a href="http://www.EscambiaHealth.com">www.EscambiaHealth.com</a>
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Walk-in Only 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
<b>Cost</b>	No charge for H1N1 vaccine administered at the health department

### Weekly Update on Available Vaccine

Residents are asked to check the Health Department's website at [www.EscambiaHealth.com](http://www.EscambiaHealth.com) at



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least weekly for updated information. Shipments of H1N1 vaccine do not arrive at regular intervals in this early phase of the vaccine distribution process.

### **About the Priority Groups**

The federal Centers for Disease Control designated five priority groups who should be the first to get the H1N1 vaccine. Those groups are:

- pregnant women;
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age;
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
- persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old; and,
- persons aged 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

Escambia County's initial focus was to provide vaccine to pregnant women, children ages 6 months -18 years old, and people who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age. Now that additional vaccine is available, the health department is also providing it to healthcare workers with direct patient care responsibilities.

### **Vaccination in Schools, Childcare Centers**

On Thursday, October 22, the Escambia County Health Department (FL) began offering voluntary H1N1 vaccination through schools and childcare centers. School-based vaccination will continue through December as long as vaccine is available. If distribution of the vaccine slows, clinics will be rescheduled. Parents will get information about the vaccine and permission forms about one week before the voluntary vaccination clinic is scheduled to be at their child's school. The Health Department is also providing vaccine to the larger child care centers in the county.

### **Protection from H1N1**

While Escambia's physicians and health department vaccinate the more than 100,000 residents in the priority groups, those outside the priority groups can take these steps to protect themselves:

- **Wash your hands often and the right way.** Rub soapy hands together for 15 seconds (if you need a timer, imagine singing the "ABC's" song). Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and touch the bathroom doorknob.
  - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Wash your hands after using the bathroom, before and after preparing food, before and after taking care of someone who is sick, after changing diapers or cleaning up after a child who has gone to the bathroom, after handling an animal or animal waste, and when your hands are visibly dirty.
- **Stay home if you are sick.** Keep children home if they are sick. Stay home until 24 hours after last fever without fever reducing medications. Avoid others who are sick.

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**Escambia County Health Department**

1295 W. Fairfield Drive • Pensacola, Florida 32501-1107

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[www.escambiahealth.com](http://www.escambiahealth.com)

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- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue.** If you don't have a disposable tissue handy, cover or sneeze into the fabric on your sleeve.
- **Get your seasonal flu vaccination.** As long as there is seasonal flu vaccine available, it is strongly recommended that individuals get their seasonal flu shot as well as the "pneumonia shot" for individuals with chronic disease and individuals 65 years and above.

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