



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

*“To protect and improve the  
health and environment of the  
people of Colorado.”*

# NEWS

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## **Last Call for Priority Groups as Plans Made to Open H1N1 Vaccine for All Over One Million Vaccinations Given So Far in This Unusual Flu Season**

DENVER – As the state health department moves beyond the one million flu vaccine delivery mark, plans are underway to make available the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to all who seek it.

“Because the state now is receiving much larger weekly amounts of vaccine, we hope to open the vaccine to all who want it within the next week, so it’s quite important for high-priority individuals who haven’t been vaccinated to get their vaccination in the next few days,” said Ned Calonge, the state’s chief medical officer.

He said, “I am pleased that we have delivered more than one million doses of the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to approximately 1,500 providers. We’ve distributed in nine weeks what we typically distribute in an entire year.”

There are estimated to be approximately 2.5 million individuals in the high priority groups in Colorado. Vaccine deliveries from the state health department to providers to date would cover approximately half this population.

Some Colorado counties have completed their delivery to high-priority individuals who have sought the vaccine and have moved on to delivering the vaccine to all people who seek it. Meanwhile, the majority of Colorado counties are still wrapping up their work to ensure high-risk individuals have been vaccinated.

Calonge said the state health department will open up vaccinations for all so that Coloradans can get vaccinated before they travel for holiday-related trips.

High-priority groups include:

- Health care workers
- Persons aged 6 months to 24 years
- Pregnant women
- Parents/caretakers and household contacts for children younger than 6 months
- Non-elderly adults with underlying health conditions
- Emergency Medical Services workers

People who should not receive the influenza vaccine include:

- People allergic to eggs and persons who have had a severe reaction to a previous flu vaccination
- People who got Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of getting an influenza vaccine
- Children less than 6 months of age
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated)

People with questions about H1N1 are encouraged to call CO HELP at 1-877-462-2911 or go to <http://www.colorado.gov/nofluforyou>. For information on flu vaccination clinics, go to <http://www.immunizecolorado.com>.