

**PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 INFLUENZA (HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA)**  
**VACCINATION UPDATE # 5: 30 November 2009**  
**GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES**

*Please distribute this information to all of your practice staff*

**Key points**

1. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is currently considering the pandemic H1N1 vaccine for children less than 10 years of age. Approval of use in children is expected in early December.
2. The dosage and schedule of vaccination for children less than 10 years of age has not yet been determined (as of 30 November).
3. Pre-filled syringes of Panvax® H1N1 Vaccine Junior (Panvax® Junior) for children aged 6 months to less than 3 years may now be pre-ordered using the attached form.
4. It is expected that multi-dose vials will be used for children 3 to 9 years of age.

**Pandemic influenza and children**

- In 2009, over 580 children were hospitalised with pandemic influenza with more than 35 requiring treatment in intensive care in NSW.
- Children under the age of 5 were the most likely age group to be hospitalised.
- Laboratory surveillance is still detecting cases of pandemic influenza within NSW although levels of activity are usual for this time of year.
- The Northern Hemisphere saw an early increase in influenza cases at the end of its summer, hence NSW may see a similar picture in 2010.

**Ordering the vaccine**

- In anticipation of TGA approval, general practices and Aboriginal Medical Services are now able to pre-order the pandemic H1N1 vaccine for children.
- The vaccine will not be distributed until it is approved.
- Limits may be placed on initial orders of pre-filled syringes to assist with even distribution across NSW.
- Multi-dose vials should be ordered using the existing order form (also available from: [http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/vaccination/swine\\_flu\\_latest\\_data.asp](http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/vaccination/swine_flu_latest_data.asp)).

**Practices are reminded that the State Vaccine Centre will be closed after 18 December 2009 to 4 January 2010 as per its usual practice. Please plan to place vaccine orders accordingly.**

For the latest information on the vaccination program please refer to the NSW Health H1N1 influenza 09 website: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>. This website is updated regularly.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kerry Chant  
Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director-General Population Health