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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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### **H1N1 VACCINE STATUS UPDATE**

The H1N1 vaccine has been coming out to the Oregon counties in small quantities based on per capita. Yesterday the CDC reported the vaccine production is behind schedule and all states will continue to see small amounts of vaccine coming out each week. It is hopeful that states will begin receiving larger quantities of the vaccine by the end of October.

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a panel made up of medical and public health experts, met July 29, 2009, to make recommendations on who should receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine. While some issues are still unknown, such as how severe the flu season, the ACIP considered several factors, including current disease patterns, populations most at-risk for severe illness based on current trends in illness, hospitalizations and deaths, how much vaccine is expected to be available, and the timing of vaccine availability.

The groups recommended to receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- **Pregnant women** because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
- **Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age** because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants younger than 6 months old might help protect infants by "cocooning" them from the virus;
- **Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel** because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce healthcare system capacity;

- **All people from 6 months through 24 years of age**
  - **Children from 6 months through 18 years of age** because cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in children who are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread, and
  - **Young adults 19 through 24 years of age** because many cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza have been seen in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population; and,
- **Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.**

The H1N1 vaccine is being produced in the same method as the seasonal flu vaccine and has been deemed safe by the FDA and the CDC. It will be available in the nasal spray (also known as flumist) which is preservative free, an inactivated injectable vaccine that is preservative free, and the regular injectable inactivated vaccine.

To prevent the spread of the H1N1 influenza (or any illness) it is important to continue to:

- Wash your hands with soap and water; use hand sanitizers when you do not have access to soap and water
- Cover your cough and sneezes
- Stay home if you are ill
- Get vaccinated