

# Swine flu vaccination

## Is it different than regular flu vaccine?

Yes it is, regular vaccine is for seasonal flu viruses while Swine flu vaccine is specifically for novel H1N1 virus.

## Who should be vaccinated??

According to the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control & prevention) recommendations the following groups should receive vaccine as soon as the vaccine is available:

- Pregnant women.
- Caregivers of infants younger than 6 months of age.
- People between 6 months old and 24 years old.
- People between 25 years old and 64 years old with certain chronic medical condition or immune compromised patients.

After having the vaccine in large amounts, everyone should be vaccinated.

## What is the vaccine schedule?

Kids under 9 years old should get 2 doses of the vaccine, one month apart. children older than 9 years and adults need only one dose.

## Who should not take this vaccine?

- People with severe egg allergy.
- People who had a severe allergic reaction after the seasonal flu vaccine.
- People who have a medical condition called "Guillain Barre Syndrome" which is manifested by severe paralytic illness.
- People who are ill at the moment should wait until they get better before taking the vaccine.

## What are the side effects of the swine flu vaccine?

Swine flu vaccine is like any other vaccine or medication can cause side effects. You should note that you cannot get the swine flu from the vaccine because the virus is already dead.

**The mild side effects that you might encounter when taking Swine flu vaccine are:**

- Soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling at the injection site
- Headache and muscle aches.
- Fever
- Nausea
- Fainting, but this is more common among adolescents.

**As for the major side effects of the swine flu vaccine are:**

- Severe allergic reaction to the vaccine ingredients, this is very rare and usually appears within a few minutes to few hours after the injection. Allergic reaction usually manifests as difficulty of breathing, hoarseness, wheezing, weakness, fast heart beat, paleness, or dizziness if you experience such symptoms call your doctor immediately and go the nearest emergency room.

**Where can you get more information?**

If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact us at

**PHARMACY1**<sup>®</sup> Training and Drug Information Center ,

Call on our toll free number: 080022225

Call on one of our local numbers: 06-5510341, 06-5510417, 06-5510305

Send us an e-mail at [dic@pharmacy-1.com](mailto:dic@pharmacy-1.com)

Send us a fax on: 06-5512701

**References:**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)