

Immunization of Health care Workers
Against The Novel H1N1 Influenza Virus, 2009-10

Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center

I. Annual immunization is the most effective way to prevent influenza virus infection and its complications. Immunization of health care workers is particularly important: Le Bonheur recommends that associates and physicians receive the vaccine against the novel H1N1 influenza A virus. Health care workers are one of the priority groups recommended to receive this vaccine.

II. Note that two forms of the novel H1N1 vaccine will be available (as with seasonal influenza vaccine):

(1) An injectable form of the monovalent H1N1 influenza vaccine (MIV) that will be indicated for anyone 6 months of age or older, and

(2) A nasal-spray (FluMist®) version of the vaccine (live attenuated influenza virus or LAIV) that will be indicated for people 2 to 49 years of age who are healthy and not pregnant.

Exclusions:

(A) Health care workers who should not receive either of the H1N1 (or seasonal) influenza vaccines:

- (1) Anyone with a severe allergy to chicken eggs or anyone who is allergic to any of the components of the influenza vaccines
- (2) Anyone with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome

(B) Health care workers who should not receive the LAIV (FluMist®) version of the H1N1 (or seasonal vaccine)

- (1) Pregnant women
- (2) People with a medical condition that places them at high risk for complications from influenza, including those with chronic heart or lung disease such as asthma or reactive airways disease; people with medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney failure; or people with illnesses that weaken the immune system, or who take medications that can weaken the immune system.
- (3) People who are in contact with others with **severely** weakened immune systems when they are being cared for in a protective environment (for example, people with hematopoietic stem cell transplants) should not get LAIV (FluMist®). (People who have contact with others with lesser degrees of immunosuppression (for example, people with diabetes, people with asthma taking corticosteroids, or people infected with HIV) can get LAIV (FluMist®)