



FROM: Communicable Disease Prevention Unit
San Francisco Department of Public Health

DATE: November 12, 2009

Please Read and Post

Status of H1N1 Flu Vaccine Distribution

~ Continue to check sfcdcp.org/flu for ongoing updates ~

H1N1 Swine Flu vaccine is not growing as fast as expected in the eggs used to produce vaccine (http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/health/26flu.html?_r=2&hpw). In that regard, distribution is trickling into communities rather than coming in large quantities.

California's initial allocation of 6.25 million doses of vaccine was intended solely for providers serving highest risk groups. San Francisco's portion of the initial allocation was about 100,000 doses. Those 100,000 doses were approved by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (per state guidelines) to go only to providers registered on CalPanFlu.org as hospitals, pediatricians, family practice and ob/gyn providers.

To date, about 60,000 doses have arrived in San Francisco. McKesson, the distributor of most all H1N1 vaccine in California, is distributing on a random basis but also incorporating "geographic equity" into their distribution plan, meaning that all counties in CA should receive equal proportional increments of their initial allocation. From this distribution method, the SF Dept. of Public Health has no way of knowing when providers will receive vaccine, or what type of vaccine they will receive.

The 30,000 doses that were initially received by SFDPH have all been distributed via our own community clinics and the public vaccination clinics held at the end of October. We presently do not have vaccine to distribute into the community, nor do we have any local control over how and when it is distributed.

Once the remaining 40,000 doses of San Francisco's initial allocation have been delivered the next wave of distribution will begin. It is expected that the second wave of vaccine will include a broader range of providers besides those serving highest risk patients.

FAQs

Q. We're a pediatric office and we got some LAIV vaccine, when will we get injectable?

A. We do not know.

Q. We're an internal medicine practice, when will we get vaccine?

A. We do not know. At the rate vaccine has been trickling in, it could be in 1-2 months.

Q. Why does the office across the street from us have vaccine and we don't?

A. Orders are being filled on a random basis; there is no way to predict who will get what and when.

Q. What are we supposed to tell our patients?

A. Remind them to practice healthy habits in the absence of a vaccine, to remain patient and calm as the entire country is experiencing the same wait. You can direct them to www.sfcdcp.org/flu for updates. CDC officials continue to state that there will ultimately be enough vaccine for all those who want protection from H1N1 – when that will happen remains unclear to all involved.



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