



Health and Healthy Living
Public Health Division

Fact Sheet

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Vaccine (H1N1 Flu Shot) without Adjuvant : Product Name: Panvax®

The following questions and answers are intended to provide you with the most current information about the H1N1 flu shot. As new information becomes available, it will be posted on the flu website at manitoba.ca. Please check our website often to be sure you have the most up-to-date information.

What is the H1N1 flu vaccine without adjuvant?

The pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine is a shot (injection) that makes your immune system develop antibodies (immunity) against the H1N1 flu virus. The virus in the vaccine has been killed, so it cannot give you an actual infection and cannot give you pandemic flu. The H1N1 flu vaccine without adjuvant is made in the same way as the annual seasonal flu vaccine.

Is this vaccine mandatory for anyone?

No. In Manitoba, all immunizations, including the H1N1 flu shot, are voluntary and given only after informed consent.

Who should get this vaccine?

The Public Health Agency of Canada has recommended that only pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy should receive the H1N1 flu shot without adjuvant.

The following pregnant women should NOT get this pandemic flu shot:

- Anyone who has a high fever at the time of vaccination;
- People who are hypersensitive (allergic) to eggs or chicken proteins (ex. hives, swelling of mouth and/or throat or breathing difficulty)--*in some circumstances the vaccine may be given under close medical supervision*;
- People who have had a previous severe allergic reaction to any influenza vaccine or any substance that is in the vaccine;
- People who have had Guillain-Barré Syndrome within eight weeks of receiving an influenza vaccine;
- People who have had a lab-confirmed case of pandemic H1N1 flu do not need the pandemic flu shot (people who have had flu symptoms but have not had a lab-confirmed case should still get the shot).

How is this vaccine given?

This H1N1 flu shot should be given with a needle into the muscle of the upper arm. It can be given anytime before, at the same time as (in a separate limb), or anytime after the seasonal flu shot or any other vaccination.

What is in this vaccine?

- Killed pandemic H1N1 flu virus
- Thimerosal (organic mercury) preservative
- Trace amounts of egg protein, beta-propiolactone (used to inactivate the virus) and sodium taurodeoxycholate (used to split the virus)
- Antibiotics: neomycin and polymyxin B sulfate

What are possible side effects?

As with all medicines and vaccines, the H1N1 flu shot can cause side effects. These side effects have been observed to be similar to those of seasonal flu shots.

Side effects that have been observed with this vaccine include:

Very common: tenderness and/or pain at the injection site; headache; muscle aches; malaise.

Common: hardening at the injection site; fever, nausea, chills.

These side effects usually disappear within one to two days without treatment. If they persist, people should consult with their health care provider.

In past influenza seasons some individuals experienced one or more of the following symptoms associated with oculorespiratory syndrome (ORS): red eyes, shortness of breath, chest tightness, cough, sore throat or swelling of part or all of the face. These signs and symptoms usually appeared within 24 hours of immunization and disappeared within two days.

Rare side effects of seasonal flu shots have included Guillain-Barré syndrome, which is a form of paralysis that may be temporary or permanent. This has been estimated to occur at one in every one million vaccinations. Severe allergic reactions- (i.e. anaphylaxis -which can be life-threatening) have also been known to occur (one in every 100,000-1,000,000 vaccinations in Canada). As with any new vaccine, long-term effects are currently unknown. People who experience a severe reaction should call 911 or seek immediate medical care.

People who have concerns about a serious or unexpected side effect, have severe pain, or need advice on how to manage a side effect, should contact their health care provider or call Health Links-Info Santé at 788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257. Health care providers are required to report significant adverse events following immunization to monitor for vaccine safety.

Recommended Resources

- For a complete list of medicinal and non-medicinal ingredients and other technical information about this vaccine, please see the product leaflet available through your immunization provider.
- Government of Manitoba: www.manitoba.ca
- Public Health Agency of Canada- FightFlu.ca: www.FightFlu.ca
- Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion – Canadian Public Health Association: www.immunize.cpha.ca

Information about your immunization will be recorded in the Manitoba Immunization Monitoring System (MIMS) and used for surveillance by Manitoba Health and Healthy Living to produce immunization records, monitor vaccine uptake, how well vaccines are working, and may also be used for research. All information recorded in MIMS will be protected in accordance with the Protection of Privacy provisions of The Personal Health Information Act.

If you want further information, contact your health care provider, your local public health unit or nursing station, or call Health Links-Info Santé at 788-8200 in Winnipeg or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.