

Ohio Department of Health

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor
Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director



N E W S

Office of Public Affairs
Robert Jennings, Director

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ODH SUBMITS ORDER FOR 61,500 DOSES OF H1N1 VACCINE

FluMist targeted at health care workers and EMS workers who provide direct patient care

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today ordered 61,500 doses of H1N1 vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The H1N1 FluMist vaccine, approved for healthy people ages 2 to 49, should arrive in Ohio in four to six business days, according to CDC. This vaccine will be provided to local health departments and hospitals, which will focus vaccination efforts on health care workers and EMS workers who provide direct patient care.

“This is great news for Ohioans,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “This vaccine – and subsequent allocations – will provide protection from pandemic flu.”

ODH expects to be able to order H1N1 vaccine given in shots – approved for high-risk individuals – in the coming weeks. Pregnant women; people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months; all people 6 months to 24 years; and people 25 to 64 years with chronic medical conditions – non-high-risk individuals will get vaccine next.

H1N1 flu and seasonal flu are circulating in Ohio, and ODH is reporting widespread flu activity to CDC. ODH urges all Ohioans to get a seasonal flu vaccination.

“We continue to urge Ohioans to take steps to protect themselves,” Jackson said. “Wash your hands, avoid touching your face, cover your cough and stay home when sick.”

ODH provides information about pandemic flu at its Web site <http://www.odh.ohio.gov> or by phone at 1-866-800-1404 during business hours.

Contact: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs 614-644-8562.