



Public Health
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Rock Island County
Health Department

WHY *aren't we receiving H1N1 vaccinations yet?*



Evidence shows people age 65 or older are at less risk of catching **H1N1** flu, once known as swine flu, than are younger people. As a result, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that senior citizens are not the highest priority group for the vaccine being developed to ward off the **H1N1** flu virus. The advisory committee added, however, that as vaccine supply and demand among younger age groups is being met, programs and providers should offer vaccination to people over the age of 65.

The committee also stressed in their report yesterday that people over the age of 65 receive the **seasonal** vaccine as soon as it is available, since they are among the most vulnerable for this type of flu.

The committee recommended the vaccination efforts focus on five key populations. Vaccination efforts are designed to help reduce the impact and spread of novel H1N1. The key populations include those who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with novel H1N1, and those who could infect young infants.

When vaccine is first available, the committee recommended that programs and providers try to vaccinate:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- people from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

❖ **CDC advisors urge seniors to get their **seasonal flu** vaccinations as soon as they are available.**