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## WHY GET THE H1N1 VACCINE?

Influenza is a serious illness. On average in the United States, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized each year from flu-related complications and about 36,000 people die from flu-related causes. The 2009 H1N1 virus is a new strain of influenza virus.

### Who should get vaccinated?

- **Because this virus is very different from current seasonal influenza viruses, many people will not have protective immunity against it.** Everyone should consider getting the vaccine. Those with specific medical concerns or considerations should consult with their doctor.
- According to the CDC, most cases of 2009 H1N1 have occurred in people younger than 25 years of age. This is why **people ages 6 months to 24 years are considered at higher risk of getting the virus and should be among the first to get the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.**

### Vaccine availability and effectiveness

- The seasonal flu vaccine does not provide protection against the H1N1 virus.
- Auburn University is **currently holding weekly H1N1 vaccination clinics. Both forms of vaccine (flu shot and nasal spray) are now available.** Vaccination is being provided at **no cost** to students, employees and dependents ages 10 and older. Visit [www.auburn.edu/emergency/flu.html](http://www.auburn.edu/emergency/flu.html) for a list of currently scheduled clinics and links to additional vaccination information (under Frequently Asked Questions).
- The **majority of vaccine supply that Auburn University will receive is expected to be intranasal.**
- In people under age 49, the **intranasal vaccine is more effective** than the injectable vaccine.
- It **takes approximately 10 to 14 days to develop protective immunity** after receiving the vaccine.

### Is it safe?

- The 2009 H1N1 vaccine is being produced by the same manufacturers who produce seasonal flu vaccines, using the same process.
- **Vaccines are the single most effective way to prevent influenza.**
- While all vaccinations carry some level of risk, influenza vaccines are administered every year and have an excellent safety record.
- For more information on vaccine safety, visit the CDC website at [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine\\_safety.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety.htm).

A new outbreak of H1N1 on campus is very likely after Thanksgiving and into the New Year, so if you want to have protective immunity for the holidays and not disrupt your vacation plans, then **the time to be vaccinated is now.** Please direct any questions about the vaccination clinics or Auburn University's response to H1N1 to [emergencymanagement@auburn.edu](mailto:emergencymanagement@auburn.edu).