



HMHB Resource Watch

HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Public Health News **National Immunization Awareness Month**

Vol. 11 Issue 1

August 26, 2009

Inside this issue:

Pregnant Women, Kids to Get Vaccine First

Swine Flu Panel Says Health-Care Workers and Groups With Highest Risk of Complications Should Jump to Front of Line

By [BETSY MCKAY](#)

ATLANTA -- Pregnant women, children and health-care workers are among those who should be first in line to receive a vaccine for protection against H1N1 swine flu, a U.S. vaccine-advisory panel recommended Wednesday.

The recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a body that counsels the federal government on vaccine matters, includes as many as 159 million people, or more than half the U.S. population. Those who should be offered shots first should the government give the final go-ahead to an H1N1 swine flu vaccination campaign are at highest risk of complications from the new flu virus, which had caused 5,011 hospitalizations and 302 deaths as of July 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Aside from pregnant women, shots should be given first to those in close contact with infants under 6 months old, health and emergency medical services workers, children and young adults from 6 months old through age 24, and people under 65 years old with underlying medical conditions, the panel said. It made its recommendations to the CDC, which will review them and then disseminate them to state and local health departments to help them plan for vaccination efforts.

The panel made a point of including young adults from ages 19 to 24 in the list of those to receive vaccine first because the rapid spread of the disease in schools in May and summer camps and military units this summer suggests outbreaks are likely to erupt on college campuses this fall. Moreover, people of that age group often hold service and entry-level jobs at which they could easily spread the disease to the broader population, the panel said.

The government isn't likely to have enough vaccine ready in early fall to cover this entire priority group. U.S. officials said they hope to have at least 120 million doses ready in October; 40 million of those could be ready by September should they be needed then. Robin Robinson, a vaccine official with the Department of Health and Human Services, said more than 20 million doses of bulk antigen have already been produced.

The 120 million doses would be enough for about 60 million people to be vaccinated in October, given that officials expect people will need two doses. But Anne Schuchat, the CDC's respiratory-diseases chief, said it was unlikely that everyone would line up for the shot, despite the agency's urging. Between 20% and 50% of these high-risk groups normally get the seasonal flu vaccine, she pointed out. "The size of the population may not be so relevant in terms of what the demand will be," she said.

Still, the advisory panel recommended that local officials narrow the priority list to a group of about 42 million people should vaccine supplies be tight. That highest-priority group would limit the children who receive the vaccine to those between 6 months and 4 years old and those with chronic medical conditions. The number of health-care and emergency medical services workers who get the vaccine first would also be limited, but pregnant women and people in close contact with infants would still be included in the highest-priority group, the panel said.

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Once there is enough vaccine for the broader priority group, next in line would be healthy adults between ages 25 and 64, the panel said. People ages 65 and over, who are normally among the first to get seasonal flu shots, would be last in line for the new H1N1 shot, because their rates of infection have been far lower. One CDC study suggested that older people may have some immunity to the virus because they were exposed in their early years to H1N1 viruses that were similar to this new virus.

Pregnant women are of particular concern to public-health officials. In a study published Wednesday in the medical journal the *Lancet*, the CDC reported that the rates of hospitalization and death in a group of pregnant women studied early in the outbreak were higher than those in the general population.

Some attending the meeting in Atlanta where the panel made its recommendations expressed concern that a vaccination campaign targeting pregnant women and children first may go ahead before the results of clinical trials to test the safety and dosage of the vaccine are ready.

Concerns were also expressed about the use of thimerosal, a preservative that contains mercury, in the vaccine. "We're very concerned about thimerosal," said Lyn Redwood, vice president of the Coalition for SafeMinds, an organization that supports research on the links between mercury and neurological disorders such as autism.

Dr. Schuchat said that thimerosal-free vaccine would be available, both in the form of shots and nasal spray.

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<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124887563173290207.html>



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HMHB in the Community

State Bar of Georgia - Atlanta, GA	August 25, 2009 Health Law Reform 2009 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers – Atlanta, GA	August 26, 2009 Mayor's Breakfast Roundtable 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Grand Hyatt Buckhead - Atlanta, GA	August 27, 2009 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Kickoff 8:00 a.m.
Lenox Square- Atlanta, GA	August 29, 2009 Atlanta Health and Wellness Expo 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Albany Civic Center - Albany, GA	September 12, 2009 Kids Expo 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
School of International Studies - Albany, GA	September 18, 2009 School Festival 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

HMHB would like to say thanks to all the exhibitors and Albany State University. HMHB would also like to thank BRH Construction for sponsoring the school supplies for the Albany Health Fair. It was a great success, over 200 participants attended this event.

Save the Date for

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia's
2009 Annual Meeting and Conference
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
9:30 am- 4:00 pm.

"Catch Your Breath in Health"

Auditorium

**State Bar of Georgia
104 Marietta St. NW
Atlanta, GA. 30303**

News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – August 24, 2009

This Week:

- 1) Treatment Recommendations for Depression During Pregnancy
- 2) Rise in Age of First-Time Motherhood
- 3) Pediatricians Answer Vaccine Questions
- 4) Call for Presentations: AMCHP Annual Conference
- 5) Breastfeeding Facts for Fathers

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPRESSION DURING PREGNANCY

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) have released a report offering recommendations for the treatment of women with depression during pregnancy. Published in the September 2009 edition of "Obstetrics and Gynecology" and the September/October 2009 edition of "General Hospital Psychiatry," the report attempts to help doctors and patients weigh the risks and benefits of various treatment options. Depression is common during pregnancy, with 14 to 23 percent of pregnant women experiencing depressive symptoms. In 2003, approximately 13 percent of women took an antidepressant at some time during their pregnancy. Pregnant women with depression face complicated treatment decisions because of the risks associated with both untreated depression and the use of antidepressants. For more information, go to http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr08-21-09-1.cfm.

2) RISE IN AGE OF FIRST-TIME MOTHERHOOD

In the United States, the average age of first-time mothers rose from 21.4 years in 1970 to 25 in 2006, according to an August 2009 data brief from the National Center for Health Statistics. Data from the Birth Data File in the National Vital Statistics System show that the average age at first birth increased in all states and the District of Columbia. Massachusetts (5.2 years) and the District of Columbia (5.5 years) had the largest increases since 1970. Age at first birth influences the total number of births that a woman might have in her life, which impacts the future growth of the population. The mother's age (both younger and older) also plays a role in a range of birth outcomes, including birthweight, multiple births and birth defects. For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db21.htm>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

3) PEDIATRICIANS ANSWER VACCINE QUESTIONS

Parents have many questions about the vaccines their children need. To answer these questions, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Sound Advice Web page features a collection of audio interviews with pediatricians, researchers, advocates and other parents. August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), a perfect time to remind people of all ages about the importance of timely vaccination. The interviews include a conversation with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, who discusses her crusade to ensure all children receive life-saving vaccines, Dr. Harvey Karp, the pediatrician who has coached thousands of new parents through his book and DVD, "The Happiest Baby on the Block," who explains in clear, easy-to-understand language why vaccines are not related to autism, and many more. Specific questions answered on the Sound Advice Web page include: why is it important to vaccinate on time; why do children need the flu shot; and what vaccines do adolescents need?

To access the interviews, go to <http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/soundadvice.html>.

4) CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS: AMCHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Program (AMCHP) has issued a call for presentations for its 2010 annual conference, scheduled for March 6-10, 2010. The deadline for presentations is August 31, 2009. Accepted presentations will be notified by October 13, 2009. The meeting, which will be held at the Gaylord National Convention Center and Hotel just outside of Washington, DC, is the largest annual gathering of state maternal and child health programs. The 2010 AMCHP conference will focus on topics such as health equity; quality improvement and instituting quality for improving performance; family, family-professional and public and private partnerships; social marketing messages, tools and resources, and much more. Go to http://conferencemanagersforms.com/AMCHP/AMCHP_AbstractsSubmission.aspx for guidelines for submission and online submission form. For more information, contact AMCHPspeakers@conferencemanagers.com or phone Colleen Campbell at 703-964-1240 Ext. 16.

5) BREASTFEEDING FACTS FOR FATHERS

Platypus Media has created an abridged version of its popular booklet, "Breastfeeding Facts for Fathers." Designed to meet the needs of low literacy readers, the abridged publication is half the length of the original publication, and highlights the crucial role men have in encouraging their partners to breastfeed. Platypus Media is offering a FREE copy of "Breastfeeding Facts for Fathers" to all readers of the Monday Morning Memo. To request your copy, send an email with your mailing address to Denise@PlatypusMedia.com. For more information about the publication, go to <http://www.platypusmedia.com/node/42>.

Sources:

- http://conferencemanagersforms.com/AMCHP/AMCHP_AbstractsSubmission.aspx
- http://www.acog.org/from_home/publications/press_releases/nr08-21-09-1.cfm
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db21.htm>
- <http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/soundadvice.html>
- <http://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/Calendar/ucm178920.htm>
- <http://www.platypusmedia.com/node/42>

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News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – August 17, 2009

This Week:

- 1) National Infant Mortality Awareness Month
- 2) Prenatal Substance Use Training DVD
- 3) Financial Assistance for RSV Prevention
- 4) New Polio Vaccination Recommendations
- 5) From NAPNAP: Resources for Disasters and Traumatic Events
- 6) Bathtub and Shower Injuries Among Children

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH September has been designated as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. The month is designed to raise awareness and promote the effectiveness of programs and efforts to reduce infant deaths, low birth weight, preterm births and disparities in perinatal outcomes. Look for more information about the observance in coming months, and visit the Office of Minority Health website, <http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=117>, for more information about the campaign “A Healthy Baby Begins with You.”

2) PRENATAL SUBSTANCE USE TRAINING DVD The Indiana Perinatal Network has produced a unique training DVD to educate health care providers on proper screening and treatment for pregnant women using tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. “Integrating Screening and Treatment of Substance Use into Prenatal Care” incorporates practical role-play scenarios with clinical and research-based materials and interventions. It also emphasizes the importance of taking a supportive and empathetic approach with pregnant women as opposed to a shame-based approach. The DVD has been approved for CME’s, nursing contact hours and social work CEU’s. For more information about the DVD and how to order copies, visit <http://www.indianaperinatal.org> and look under Latest News.

3) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RSV PREVENTION MedImmune has expanded access for eligible premature infants to receive medication administered to high-risk infants for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract infections caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The MedImmune Assistance Program is designed to provide the medicine for free to qualifying patients who lack health insurance and whose family household income is within a certain range of the federal poverty level (FPL) guidelines. The company recently increased the eligibility for the program to 400 percent of the FPL (e.g. a household of four with an income up to \$88,200, and without health care coverage or medical insurance could receive medication at no cost). This is an expansion of the program’s previous eligibility ceiling. The MedImmune Assistance Program is administered as part of the Synagis Reimbursement Hotline and can be reached by calling 1-877-778-9010. More information about additional help available for RSV prevention and treatment can be found by visiting <https://www.panfoundation.org/>. For more information about RSV, go to <http://www.synagis.com/what-is-rsv.aspx>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) NEW POLIO VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released updated recommendations for routine polio vaccination. The updates emphasize the importance of the booster dose of polio vaccination at four years of age; extend the minimum interval

months; add a precaution for the use of minimum intervals in the first six months of life; and clarify the polio vaccination schedule when specific combination vaccines are used. Access the recommendations in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5830a3.htm?s_cid=mm5830a3_e.

5) FROM NAPNAP: RESOURCES FOR DISASTERS AND TRAUMATIC EVENTS The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) has created a compilation of links and resources designed to help children, parents and health care providers prepare and cope with disasters and traumatic events such as hurricanes, fires, acts of terrorism, violence and war. NAPNAP’s Web page contains information on helping children cope with these types of events as well as valuable information for health care providers about planning for and responding to a mass casualty event. For more information go to <http://www.napnap.org/DisasterResources.aspx>.

6) BATHTUB AND SHOWER INJURIES AMONG CHILDREN A study in the August edition of the journal Pediatrics examines the epidemiological features of injuries associated with bathtubs and showers among children in the US. The study authors conducted a retrospective study using nationally representative data from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission National Electronic Injury Surveillance System from 1990 through 2007 for children under 18 years of age. They report that there were nearly 800,000 bathtub and shower-related injuries among children during this time period. The largest number of injuries involved children two years of age, with children four years of age and younger making up 54.3 percent of the injuries. 81 percent of cases were caused by a slip, trip or fall. For more information, access the study online at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/124/2/541>.

Sources:
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/124/2/541>
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5830a3.htm?s_cid=mm5830a3_e
<http://www.healthystartassoc.org/>
<http://www.indianaperinatal.org>
<http://www.napnap.org/DisasterResources.aspx>
<http://www.synagis.com/what-is-rsv.aspx>
<https://www.panfoundation.org/>

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Public Health Conferences and Events

- [2009 CityMatCH Urban Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference](#). (CithMatCH) - August 23-25, New Orleans, LA.
- [NIH State-of-the-Science Conference: Family History and Improving](#)- (National Institutes of Health (NIH)) - August 24-26, 2009, Bethesda, MD
- [Public Health Information Network \(PHIN\) Conference](#) - (Public Health Information Network, CDC (PHIN)) - August 30-September 3, 2009, Atlanta, GA
- [AHRO 2009 Annual Conference - Research to Reform: Achieving Health System Change](#) - (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)) - September 13-16, 2009, Bethesda, MD.
- [Research to Practice Symposia: Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging](#) - (Health Promotion Research Center, School of Public Health, University of Washington) - September 15-16, 2009, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- [National Comparative Effectiveness Summit](#) - (Health Care Conference Administrators (HCAA)) - September 16-17, 2009, Washington, DC.

August Health Observances

1-31

Cataract Awareness Month

American Academy of Ophthalmology
www.aao.org/aaosite/eyemd/cataract.cfm

1-31

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Prevent Blindness America
www.preventblindness.org

1-31

National Immunization Awareness Month

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm

1-31

Psoriasis Awareness Month

National Psoriasis Foundation
www.psoriasis.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=937

1-31

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month

Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy
www.fsma.org/Fundraising/AwarenessMonth/



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