

Dear Columbia Community:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) recently provided 1,200 doses of the H1N1 vaccine to Columbia University. I am writing to inform you that, in accordance with NYC DOHMH guidelines, we will be making the H1N1 vaccine available to Columbia students, faculty and staff in the following groups:

- Pregnant women
- People age 24 and under
- People age 25 through 64 with medical conditions that increase the risk of flu complications, including asthma, diabetes, chronic heart and lung conditions, kidney failure or a weakened immune system
- Anyone who lives with or cares for children less than 6 months old
- Healthcare workers who have direct contact with patients

If you identify with one or more of the above priority groups, we recommend getting the H1N1 flu vaccine. Due to the limited number of doses, vaccines will be provided at the following event on a first-come, first-served basis:

Date: Wednesday, December 9

Time: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Lerner Hall – Broadway Room

**Please remember to bring your Columbia identification card.*

As soon as the NYC DOHMH provides more information about the possibility of additional doses of the H1N1 vaccine, we will notify the community. (As an alternative, you may also consider attending one of the weekend vaccination clinics by the NYC DOHMH. Please visit the city's health website for a complete listing at www.nyc.gov/flu.)

The H1N1 vaccine is made in the same way that the seasonal flu shot is. The most common side effects following vaccination are mild, and may include soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given. These reactions generally resolve within 1-2 days.

For more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine at Columbia, please contact Health Services at (212) 854-2284 or visit the University's Preparedness website at www.preparedness.columbia.edu.

You may also wish to read more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Seward, Jr., M.D.

Assistant Vice President, Health Services at Columbia