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# H1N1 Vaccine Safety

***Influenza Hotline: 1-800-447-1985***

Dubuque, IA - As the H1N1 influenza vaccine continues to arrive across Iowa, Dubuque County public officials remind residents the 2009 H1N1 vaccine is as safe as the seasonal influenza vaccine. "There is a lot of misinformation out there," said Mary Rose Corrigan, Public Health Specialist, City of Dubuque

"The H1N1 vaccine is made by the same process, by the same companies, and tested in the same manner as the seasonal vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine does not have any more risks associated with it than the seasonal influenza vaccine."

In a normal influenza season, the H1N1 vaccine would have been incorporated into the seasonal vaccine; however, because the seasonal vaccine was already in production when the H1N1 influenza was recognized, it was necessary for two vaccines to be created. Next year, the H1N1 strain will likely be included in the seasonal vaccination.

"The risks associated with not getting the H1N1 vaccine are far greater than the sore arm that may result from getting the shot," said Dr. John Viner, M.D. "This virus has the potential to cause serious illness and death. Receiving the vaccination is an effective way to help fight the spread of the virus."

The seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine can be given at the same time, or at any time in regards to each, and in any sequence ***with one exception***: if using the live nasal spray vaccine for BOTH the seasonal flu and H1N1, they should be given on the same day or 4 weeks apart to ensure the best protection from both vaccines.

As the vaccine is allocated to states on a staggered basis over the coming weeks, Dubuque County public health officials will continually update information about vaccine availability and vaccine clinic sites.

A statewide toll-free hotline has been established for public questions about seasonal and H1N1 influenza at 1-800-447-1985. More information can also be found at [www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us).

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