

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
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CDPHE Response to Law Enforcement Questions about Vaccination Priority Groups

Question:

Why are police officers NOT in the priority group for H1N1 vaccination?

Answer:

The priorities for H1N1 vaccination, set by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, are being followed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by state and local health agencies, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Currently, the priorities do not include law enforcement unless there is a situation in which a law enforcement officer is expected to have significant contact with patients.

These priorities are based on who should get the vaccine first, not who should get the vaccine. If current predictions hold, Colorado should have 750,000 doses of vaccine delivered by mid-October. To put that in perspective, Colorado gives about 1 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine in any given year.

We will get weekly deliveries after that first shipment and should have enough vaccine for everyone who wants an immunization as we move into November and December. So, the priorities are time-limited.

The current priorities are intended to protect those who are more likely to die from the flu first, not those who are more likely to come into contact with it. The only exception is protection of those health care workers who provide direct patient care, who are necessary to assure we have personnel to provide care to the ill.