



Policy Statement Regarding Individuals with ND/ID and Vaccination against Influenza A (H1N1)

As an organization of physicians and dentists dedicated to protecting the health of people with neurodevelopmental disorders and intellectual disabilities (ND/ID), the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) has reviewed current CDC guidelines, European guidelines, historic information regarding the natural course of the H1N1 flu with respect to people with ID, and has convened a meeting of healthcare providers expert in the care of patients with ND/ID.

Important findings during this review included: 1) the CDC recommendation that "... (all) persons aged 6 months to 24 years, and persons aged 25-64 years who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications" be considered an initial target group for vaccination; 2) the CDC recommendation that "health-care and emergency medical services personnel who have direct contact with patients or infectious material" be considered a high priority target group during limited vaccine availability; 3) evidence that people with ND/ID have higher mortality due to pneumonia than the general population; 4) evidence that H1N1 appears to facilitate bacterial co-infection; 5) evidence that H1N1 appears to facilitate the development of pulmonary problems in children with ND/ID; 6) evidence that H1N1 disproportionately affects children with ND/ID, compared to other children; 7) the historically significant but relatively low risk of vaccine-induced Guillain-Barré syndrome; 8) the European recommendations which classify people with "a mental handicap and in residential care settings" as a high risk group, and; 9) the known risk for some neurodevelopmental disorders to be associated with immune system compromise.

Based on the evidence at hand, the AADMD makes the following H1N1 vaccination recommendations regarding people with ND/ID:

- 1) *All children (over 6 months of age) and adults with ND/ID should be considered to be part of the initial target group for vaccination against the H1N1 virus.*
- 2) *All community-based direct support professionals, nurses, physicians, transportation workers, day program workers, or other personnel (including family members) who come into regular, direct contact with individuals with ND/ID should be considered part of the initial target group for vaccination.*
- 3) *All intermediate care facility, group home, or other congregate living employees should be considered part of the initial target group for vaccination.*

The AADMD remains committed to examining further evidence and revising these recommendations as appropriate.*

*Current recommendation approved by decision of the AADMD Board, September 26, 2009. The AADMD is an organization of physicians and dentists who possess clinical experience and academic expertise in the health needs of people with neurodevelopmental disorders and/or intellectual disabilities. The mission of the AADMD is to improve the quality of healthcare for people with ND/ID.