



PANDEMIC FLU | Frequently Asked Questions

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VACCINES

Is there a vaccine for pandemic flu?

Not yet. Scientists need to know exactly which virus will cause the pandemic before a vaccine can be made.

Does the seasonal flu vaccine protect me against pandemic flu?

No. The seasonal flu vaccine only works to protect you against the seasonal flu. Because seasonal flu and pandemic flu are two different strains of influenza virus, an entirely new vaccine needs to be made for pandemic flu.

When will a vaccine be available?

Large amounts of vaccine cannot be made before knowing exactly which virus will cause the pandemic. It could then take several months before a vaccine is available and only limited amounts will be made at first. Scientists are researching ways to make vaccines more quickly.

Who will get vaccinated first and who makes that decision?

Healthcare workers will likely be among the first to get vaccinated, once a working vaccine is available. This is to make sure that they are healthy enough to care for other people. It is important to protect people who are at high risk for serious illness, and to make sure that essential day-to-day services are able to remain running.

Can I get pandemic flu from the vaccine?

Like the seasonal flu vaccine, the pandemic flu vaccine will be made from a dead virus, so it will not infect people.

Is there a chance I can get pandemic flu even if I am vaccinated?

The vaccine will greatly reduce your chance of getting pandemic flu, but there is a small possibility that you may be infected. If so, the symptoms will usually be less severe than if you did not get the vaccine at all.

How will vaccine be distributed quickly if a pandemic occurs?

Wisconsin has plans to distribute the vaccine through quick distribution centers, which will be set up throughout the state at locations that are easy to get to, such as schools, community centers, and health clinics.

For More Information, contact: Wood County Health Department
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