

## **GETTING READY FOR THE 2010-2011 FLU SEASON**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today that it has approved vaccines for the 2010-2011 influenza season in the United States.

Seasonal influenza vaccine protects against three strains of influenza, including the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, which caused the 2009 pandemic. Last year because the 2009 H1N1 virus emerged after production began on the seasonal vaccine, two separate vaccines were needed to protect against seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic flu virus, but this year, only one vaccine is necessary. Vaccines for the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza contain the following strains:

- A/California/7/09 (H1N1)-like virus (pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus)
- A/Perth /16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

Please note that the CDC has published new recommendations for annual influenza vaccination to include all people aged 6 months and older. The expanded recommendation is to take effect in the 2010-2011 influenza season.

Given that this begins our government's preparations for the upcoming flu season, this is a good time to begin looking ahead ourselves. Therefore, we are moving from "remote" to "immediate" preparation in our flu policy.