

# Lincoln Voices Off On H1N1 Vaccine

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A vaccination for the H1N1 flu virus could be released as soon as October.

Until then, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is asking the public for input on how to best distribute the vaccine.

Lincoln is just one of 10 locations holding public seminars nationwide.

People who attended Saturday's forum in the Capitol City were first educated about the virus, then asked to discuss how much government action should be taken to prevent it.

The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended that the vaccine efforts focus on five key populations who could be at higher risk for disease or complications and who therefore are more likely to come in contact with H1N1.

When the vaccine first becomes available, the committee recommended programs try to vaccinate: pregnant women, people who live with or care for kids younger than 6 months of age, health care and emergency services personnel, people between the ages of 6 months to 24 years of age, and people ages 25 to 64 who are at higher risk for H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

With school's start and the regular flu season right around the corner, national health experts are warning that the threat of H1N1 flu can become even more dangerous.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued guidelines for schools, to ensure the safety of students.

You can find those guidelines on DHHS's website: <http://www.flu.gov>.

Nebraska health officials say they've confirmed 413 cases of swine flu since the outbreak began in late April.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services said 39 of the state's 93 counties have reported confirmed cases of the virus, also known as H1N1 flu.

Twenty-one people who've caught the virus have required a hospital stay.

One person has died. A Custer County woman in her 50s who had other medical problems.

Health officials have regarded the state's outbreak as relatively mild, based on the severity of symptoms and recovery time.

The virus can cause a fever of more than 100 degrees, body aches, coughing, a sore throat, respiratory congestion and, in some cases, vomiting and diarrhea.