



NEWS RELEASE
EUROPE REGIONAL MEDICAL COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

CMR. 442 APO AE 09042
U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL – NACHRICHTEN KASERNE
POSTFACH 103180 69021 HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
DSN 371-3317/3049 TEL. 06221-7-3317/3049
PHIL TEGTMEIER CELL – 0162-256-3574

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H1N1 vaccine now available to all

Army clinics to use existing stocks for all authorized beneficiaries

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Army health clinics will begin vaccinating all authorized beneficiaries with H1N1 Influenza vaccine using all existing stocks, Europe Regional Medical Command officials announced today.

The decision frees immunization clinic staffs to use vaccine stocks regardless of whether or not they were purchased for uniformed service members.

“All authorized beneficiaries should check with their local immunization clinic for times and locations where the vaccine will be available,” said COL Theresa Moser, Director, Force Health Protection, Europe Regional Medical Command.

She said clinics will be bound by the vaccine’s FDA-approved age range. Those ranges are: Sanofi-Pasteur; six months and up; and Novartis, four years and up. Other than that, any beneficiary may receive either Sanofi-Pasteur or Novartis H1N1 vaccine without restriction.

“Sanofi-Pasteur is the vaccine that is FDA-approved for those aged six months and up,” Moser said. “But we are prepared to cross-level the two vaccines throughout ERMC to ensure that clinics are able to immunize all their beneficiaries as quickly as possible. We expect adequate vaccine supplies to immunize everyone.”

Moser added, “Since all active duty are required to be immunized with H1N1, we encourage commanders to ensure their Soldiers report for immunization as soon as possible; USAREUR’s target date for active duty compliance is now Dec. 15, 2009.”

More vaccine is on its way. This decision makes the vaccine available now for all beneficiaries. It's expected that the move will help reduce the risk of the spread of the disease during the holidays, Moser said.