



IMPORTANT NEWS!

Effective immediately, all medical plans under the State of Maryland Employees and Retirees Health and Welfare Benefits Program will cover H1N1 vaccinations through June 30, 2010.

Please note that **initial** shipments of the vaccine will be available only to those individuals in the five priority categories:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children under six months of age
- Healthcare and emergency services personnel
- All people - six months through 24 years of age
- Those aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.



Once the vaccine has been released for distribution to the general public, participants in any of our medical plans (Aetna, CareFirst, UnitedHealthcare) may contact their provider about obtaining the vaccine.

Please note: Not all providers will have the vaccine. Only providers who signed specific agreements with the federal government will receive the vaccine. However, hundreds of pharmacies and urgent care centers have signed such agreements.

The cost to members depends on the provider from whom they obtain the vaccination. There is no charge for the vaccine, only for the administration of the shot. Vaccinations obtained by any in-network providers such as Primary Care Providers, Pediatricians, Obstetricians, urgent care clinics, etc., will have **no copay**. Vaccinations obtained from out-of-network providers will be subject to out-of-network benefit schedule. This means for the PPO and POS plans, the **cost to the member will be 20% of allowed benefit, AFTER the deductible**. For the EPO plans, there is **no coverage out of network**. If Medicare Part B is your primary coverage, you pay nothing for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine's administration if your doctor or health care provider accepts Medicare assignment. Also, the Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance do not apply to the 2009 H1N1 vaccine or its administration

For more information about how the vaccine is covered under your medical plan go to:

Aetna www.aetnamd.com
CareFirst www.carefirst.com/statemd
UnitedHealthcare www.myuhc.com/groups/stateofmaryland

For information on H1N1 flu and how you can protect yourself and your family, please follow this [link](#) to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website.