

Aetna is taking a number of steps as part of our concerted effort to help members protect themselves against the H1N1 flu.

First, we have made the decision to cover administration of the H1N1 flu vaccine for all fully insured medical plan members and all members of self-funded plans unless directed otherwise by the plan sponsor. Aetna will provide this coverage even in instances where members' specific health plans do not provide coverage for preventive care or have limits on such coverage. Aetna will pay for the full cost of the administration of the vaccine with no member co-pay, co-insurance or deductible applied.

We are reaching out to all members in many ways. Educational mailings to members have begun, and messages will be included in the Member Essentials eNewsletter. In addition, professionals staffing Aetna's member services call centers have received special materials on the H1N1 flu so they are well prepared to answer questions.

We also will use information available in our CareEngine to proactively identify members who fall into three of the five categories of "priority individuals" as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Aetna will reach out to these members and urge them to be vaccinated.

These three categories are: members who are younger than 65 years of age who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza; persons 6 months to 24 years of age; and pregnant women. Members in these high-risk groups will receive Care Considerations sent to their personal health records with information on H1N1 flu, their specific risk factors and suggestions they consider vaccination. We will include information about all of the priority groups, including those we cannot readily identify through our records – health care workers/emergency personnel and caregivers of children six months and younger – in messages sent to all members' Aetna Personal Health Records.

In a similar effort to reach high-risk members, Aetna is providing H1N1 training to nurse case managers who work with members enrolled in Aetna's disease management, case management, and Beginning Right® maternity programs. Members in these programs may also be among those the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has targeted for prioritization when the vaccine is first available.

Resources available to all members on Aetna's public website include fact sheets and Q&As, with up-to-date information on the H1N1 flu along with tips on preventing infection. We have posters and flyers for download with tips on how to avoid the flu. We also have a video that discusses proper hand washing technique and worksite hygiene.

We continue to update pages on aetna.com for [members](#) and [plan sponsors](#).

We at Aetna are committed to doing our part to decrease barriers to vaccination and minimize the administrative complexity of providing access and financing for the administration of this vaccine. As Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said in a letter to health plans, "It is in everyone's interests to help reduce the demand for and costs associated with emergency room use and in-patient hospitalizations and to minimize disruption in the workforce's productivity by having as many people as possible vaccinated... Together, all of us doing our part will ensure that we minimize the consequences of the H1N1 virus on our citizens, businesses, and the economy."

Please let me know if you have any questions. We will keep you informed as more information is available.