

# THE PANDEMIC INFLUENZA A(H1N1) VACCINE

## For children under 3 years old



**I've heard there are two kinds of vaccine against pandemic influenza A(H1N1). What are they, and which should my child receive?**

The main vaccine actually offered in Québec is called Arepanrix. It is made the same way as normal flu vaccines. It also contains a substance called an adjuvant that increases the immune response to the vaccine. A vaccine without an adjuvant will be made available in mid-November, and is intended chiefly for pregnant women. For young children, experts strongly recommend the vaccine with adjuvant.

**Would it be better to wait for the adjuvant-free vaccine before having my child vaccinated?**

No. In fact, findings so far from studies under way indicate that the vaccine with adjuvant gives young children very robust protection against the virus. Even though little is known about the adjuvant's effects on young children, that doesn't mean that there are many or that they are significant or dangerous. Since the risks of influenza A(H1N1) virus are very real, children must receive the vaccine with adjuvant—which is both safe and effective—as soon as possible.

“The vaccine with adjuvant gives young children very robust protection against the virus.”

## Can I still choose the vaccine without adjuvant for my child?

This is not what is recommended for children. The vaccine with adjuvant is clearly recommended for your child, because all indications are that it provides the best protection against the disease.

## Does the vaccine carry any particular risks for my child?

No. The vaccine cannot cause the flu because it is made of parts of dead viruses. Common side effects include local reactions (e.g. redness) and more frequent fever, especially with the Arepanrix vaccine (which includes an adjuvant). This is commonplace when young children are vaccinated.

## Can children aged under 6 months be vaccinated against influenza A(H1N1)?

No. As with seasonal flu vaccines, the influenza A(H1N1) vaccine is not authorized for children this young. This is why it is recommended that their family members be vaccinated, to protect them indirectly.