



**COMMUNIQUE FOR ALL QUEENSLAND GPs (#4)  
PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 VACCINATION PROGRAM  
07 October 2009**

**URGENT ADVICE FOR VACCINATION OF PEOPLE WITH A LATEX ALLERGY**

The Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jim Bishop AO, issued the following warning and advice late yesterday.

A short term adverse reaction has occurred at the time of vaccination in a person with an allergy to latex. However, the true cause of this event has not been determined and is currently being investigated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza vaccine (Panvax®) and vial are latex free. The Department of Health and Ageing has investigated the 1mL syringes in the vaccination packs and confirmed that these syringes contain latex.

In line with the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) guidelines for hospital management of patients with latex allergies, while the association is not proven a prudent approach is to use a syringe that you know to be latex free for those who have a latex allergy.

Please ask all people who are consenting for vaccination if they have an allergy to latex.

**Those who report an allergy to latex should not be vaccinated using a syringe from a Vaccination Pack.**

We will continue to monitor this issue and will keep you informed of progress.

The Commonwealth advice is at

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program#summary>

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Government