

CDC: Flu Vaccine Is Now Available And Nearly Everyone Should Get It

BY ALAN BAVLEY

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Just after the news that "swine flu" is no longer a global threat, it's time to roll up our sleeves for another shot.

Flu vaccination season started early this year, and it's expected to be bigger than ever.

A bumper crop of 160 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine is being produced, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. This is about 40 percent more than last year.

For the first time, the CDC is recommending universal influenza vaccination. Instead of confusing lists based on age and health status, now it's simple: Everybody older than 6 months is advised to get a shot.

"We in public health think that vaccination can benefit everybody. We've been moving in that direction for several years," said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner.

"The bottom line is people can start getting vaccinated

now. If it's available, go get it."

Flu vaccination last year operated in crisis mode. In April 2009, the H1N1 virus, initially dubbed "swine flu," appeared first in Mexico, then in the United States and then around the world.

Earlier this month, the World Health Organization declared the H1N1 pandemic over.

H1N1 emerged too late to be part of the usual, seasonal flu vaccine, so a separate vaccine was created. Seasonal flu vaccinations were pushed forward to September from their traditional October start to make time to offer the H1N1 vaccine next. Some were confused and others frustrated that H1N1 shots didn't arrive as quickly as officials predicted.

Although the H1N1 virus caused some severe illnesses and deaths, particularly among children, overall it proved milder than many feared. But the threat of a potential deadly pandemic helped spawn new awareness of flu prevention.

Dispensers of hand sanitizing gels became common additions to kitchen counters and

office desks. People learned to cover their coughs and sneezes. They kept sick kids home from school.

"These are all good things people have learned. Hopefully, they will carry that for a lifetime and not for just one season," said Sharon Frey, a physician and flu vaccine researcher at St. Louis University.

Pharmacy chains anticipate that H1N1 memories will boost demand for shots this fall.

That's what customer research suggests at CVS. The chain started offering shots on Sunday. Walgreens began several days earlier.

"We want to provide access to the vaccine while people are still thinking about it," said Mike DeAngelis at CVS.

He also thinks the CDC's urging of universal vaccination will boost demand.

Pharmacy chains have another reason for promoting the vaccine so widely: This is the first year that all states are permitting properly trained pharmacists to give shots.

The rules vary state by state. In Kansas, pharmacists are limited to vaccinating peo-

ple 6 years or older; in Missouri, the minimum age is 12.

Flu is too fickle to predict which viral strain will be dominant each winter. To be on the safe side, this year's flu vaccine has H1N1 among its three strains.

"These are all best guesses," Frey of St. Louis University said. "H1N1 was the dominant virus last year. There's no reason to think it won't be back this year."

All indications point to a vaccination season that will run far more smoothly than in 2009.

"There have just not been any major red flags go up yet," said Lee Norman, chief medical officer at the University of Kansas Hospital.

"We hoping for a boring, predictable, effective season."

These are some of the concerns you can lay to rest.

- No need to worry about the safety of H1N1 vaccine. While some worried last year that the shot for this novel virus hadn't been tested adequately, Norman said: "I think we feel a terrific amount of

comfort with the H1N1 vaccine. ... It has a very, very favorable safety profile."

- No need to worry about getting a shot too early, experts said. Immunity is good for at least six months —

enough to get through peak flu season — and perhaps as long as a year.

- No need to worry about shortages. Without glitches, plenty of shots and nasal spray should be available.



RICH SUGG/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

Delane Kempf, the Flu Shot Program Manager for the American Red Cross in Kansas City, Missouri, holds a bottle of the flu vaccine on August 30, 2010.

UPS Cargo Plane Crashes Near Dubai Airport

BY BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A UPS cargo plane with two crew members on board crashed shortly after takeoff Friday outside Dubai, officials said.

The state news agency WAM, quoting the General Civil Aviation Authority, reported that the "bodies of two pilots" had been found at the scene, but UPS did not confirm that.

The plane went down inside an Emirati air base near a busy highway intersection about 10 miles (16 kilometers) southeast of Dubai's international airport. WAM said the crash occurred in an unpopulated desert area, suggesting there may not have been casualties on the ground.

Smoke rose from the crash site, which was shielded from the highway by walls. Migrant laborers from a nearby camp gathered along the roadside to watch.

UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said the Boeing 747-400 — which has a wingspan of 212 feet (64.6 meters) and length of 232 feet (70.7 meters) — went down at about 8 p.m. in Dubai (12 p.m. EST). Flight 6 was en route to the UPS hub in Cologne, Germany, she said. Petrella said the plane had two crew members but the company has not confirmed any casualties.

Two U.S. aviation experts said the plane had taken off and then turned around and was returning to land when the accident took place. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media.

UPS, an Atlanta-based company formally known as United Parcel Service Inc. and the world's largest shipping company, dispatched an investigation team to the scene.

A Dubai-based spokesman for the General Civil Aviation Authority, Ismail al-Baroushi, said an investigation was under way, but it was "too early to speculate"

on the cause of the crash. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz also said the U.S. agency will send a team of experts to Dubai to assist with the investigation.

A witness, who refused to give his name, said he was sitting on the balcony of his home when he heard a "big boom."

"There was fire and too much smoke," he said.

In October 2009, a Sudanese Boeing 707 cargo plane crashed in the desert outside Dubai after taking off from Sharjah airport north of Dubai, killing six crew members. Emirati regulators have banned the plane's Sudanese owner, Azza Transport, from operating in the country.

There are about 300 747 freighters in service, carrying about half the world's air cargo.

UPS planes have been involved in four accidents since 1985, none fatal, according to an aviation safety database. The most recent

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William (Bill) Wiedenfeld Benefit

When: Friday, Sept. 10

Where: Elks Lodge
504 West 27th St, Yankton

Meal will be served starting at 6:30pm- 8:00pm
\$5.00 Adults • Kids under 10 free

Dance: 9pm-1am Music by: **The Afterbar**

Raffle tickets will be sold in advance and at the door the night of the event, there will also be a few silent auction items.

Tickets - 1 for \$1 6 for \$5 15 for \$10

Bill passed unexpectedly April 17th, 2010 of a heart attack. He leaves behind 5 children and many friends and family that loved him dearly. This benefit is to help defray the medical and funeral costs that have arisen since his untimely death. Bill did not have any medical or life insurance at the time of his death. There is a bank account set up at Bank 360,

1101 Broadway Suite 102, Yankton, SD 57078
William Wiedenfeld funeral trust account, for anyone that would like to donate but cannot make the event.

Call Sara Olson @ 605-661-2143

With any questions, donations, or items for the raffle or auction.

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