



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) guidance on use of latex-containing 1mL syringes from pandemic vaccination packs

Panvax® H1N1 vaccine vials and the pre-filled syringes are both latex¹ free.

However the plunger of the 1mL syringe provided in the pandemic vaccination pack contains latex.

As part of the standard pre-vaccination checklist, immunisation providers should ask if the person to be vaccinated **has any severe allergies** (Immunisation Handbook 9th edition, page 16). If so, providers should specifically ask about a history of allergic reactions to latex or latex-containing products before deciding on the mode of Panvax® H1N1 vaccine administration.

Persons reporting a history of severe (anaphylactic) allergy to latex can still receive Panvax® H1N1 vaccine with careful precautions to avoid latex exposure as follows:

1. Do NOT use the 1mL syringe provided in the pandemic vaccination pack.
2. Use a new multi-dose Panvax® H1N1 vaccine vial. This is to eliminate the possibility of latex contamination of the vaccine from other latex-containing syringes used to draw up previous doses.

Persons reporting non-anaphylactic latex allergy (for example, a history of contact allergy to latex gloves) have a very low risk of adverse reaction from use of latex-containing syringes. However it is considered prudent not to use syringes containing latex, including the 1mL syringe provided in the pandemic vaccination pack.

Persons with no known history of allergy to latex can be administered Panvax® H1N1 vaccine using syringes that contain latex, including the 1mL syringe provided in the pandemic vaccination packs.

Latex free syringes are identified as LATEX FREE on the outer box and by the symbol of a circle with a line through it and the word LATEX inside the circle.

Standard equipment and medication such as adrenalin should be part of the usual standard of care for vaccine providers for management of severe allergic reactions. As with any vaccine, administration of Panvax® H1N1 vaccine should not occur without the IMMEDIATE availability of adrenaline. Recipients should wait 15 minutes at the site of vaccine administration to ensure they remain close to treatment in case of severe allergic reaction.

1. Latex means natural rubber latex.