



MASSACHUSETTS

September 2009

Dear Member:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Extends Coverage for the H1N1 Vaccine

The H1N1 flu virus continues to be a serious health concern. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts has been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to prepare for the H1N1 flu. As part of our efforts to support state and local initiatives aimed at limiting the spread of the H1N1 flu virus, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will provide coverage with no out-of-pocket cost to you when you get the H1N1 vaccine.

H1N1 Vaccine Coverage Guidelines

An H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in October. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will cover the cost of the vaccine administration so you will be able to receive the H1N1 shot without paying a copayment, co-insurance, or deductible, regardless of your plan's benefit design for the administration of the vaccine. There is typically no charge for an office visit when you *only* receive an H1N1 vaccination; however, if you receive additional covered services, such as an office visit, you will be subject to any applicable cost-sharing, as outlined in your Summary of Benefits.

About the H1N1 Vaccine

The CDC recommends that certain groups be the first to receive the H1N1 vaccine, including:

- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and emergency medical responders
- People caring for infants under 6 months of age
- Children and young adults from 6 months to 24 years of age
- People aged 25 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions (e.g., asthma, diabetes)

For More Information

For more information on the H1N1 vaccine and tips for protecting your health and preventing the spread of H1N1 flu and seasonal flu, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov or our website at www.bluecrossma.com/membercentral. If you experience flu-like symptoms, contact your primary care provider or call our Blue Care LineSM at **1-888-247-BLUE (2583)** to speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have any questions, please contact Member Service at the number on the front of your ID card.

Sincerely,

Michael Avotins
Senior Vice President
Service and Operations