

October 23, 2009

As you may be aware, there are shortages of the seasonal influenza vaccine across the country, including at providers throughout the Physicians Plus service area. The best first step for receiving the vaccination is contacting your doctor or clinic; they can inform you directly what is available.

Meriter, for example, received only a portion of its flu vaccine order and notified us that they were forced to make the difficult decision to cancel FastCare flu immunization clinics (referenced in *PlusNotes*). Additional vaccine supplies may be available later this fall, but at this point there is no guarantee.

Additionally, Meriter and other providers in our network are in weekly contact with government officials to understand when the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine will be available for general clinic use. Due to a nationwide shortage of this vaccine, health officials are focusing efforts on groups at greatest risk of developing complications from H1N1.

The flu situation is ever-changing. For the most up-to-date seasonal and H1N1 influenza and vaccination information, stay tuned to [Physicians Plus](#), [Meriter](#), [federal](#), [state](#) and [county](#) resources.