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New Jerseyans Not Worried About H1N1

Fewer than 1 in 3 (30%) New Jerseyans say they plan to get the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine when it is available this season, according to results from the most recent Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind™ poll. Already 1 in 5 New Jerseyans (20%) say they've had their regular, seasonal flu shot, but only half of those say they'll also go and get the H1N1 flu vaccine, when it becomes available to them.

Meanwhile, a majority (62%) say they are not planning to get the H1N1 vaccine at all, and another 9% say they've not decided what they'll do.

"People need to remember that their health is also other people's health," said Glennena Haynes-Smith, associate professor in FDU's Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health and a former U.S. Army nurse who served in Iraq. "We recommend people use vaccines for epidemic sicknesses like flu because it's not just about their health, it's about the health of those around them, including their family and co-workers."

But nearly three-quarters (74%) say they're not very worried or not at all worried about contracting the swine flu in the next few months. Fewer than 1 in 4 (23%) say they're somewhat or very worried about it.

"It's not that this flu is quite a serious disease," said Haynes-Smith. "It's that it is widespread and puts some people at serious risk."

The PublicMind poll of 656 New Jersey residents was conducted from September 28, 2009 through October 4, 2009 and has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points.

Combined tables	Total
N=656	
Had a flu shot and won't get swine flu shot	9%
Plan to have a regular flu shot only	16%
Plan to have neither shot	37%
Haven't decided what to do	9%
No swine flu shot subtotal	71
Plan to have Swine Flu shot only	2%
Had flu shot and will get swine flu shot	11%
Plan to have both shots	17%
Will have swine flu subtotal	30

Tables, questions, and methodology available on the web at: http://publicmind.fdu.edu
Radio actuality line: (201) 692-2846. For more information, please call (201) 692-7032.

Methods and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from September 28, 2009, through October 4, 2009 using a randomly selected statewide sample of 656 New Jersey residents. The sampling error for 656 respondents is +/- 4 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. PublicMind interviews are conducted by professionally trained interviewers use a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Results are mathematically weighted to match known demographics.

The wording of the questions included in this release are as follows:

Question: By the way, Have you already had a flu shot this season or have you not had the chance yet?								
	All	Age				Health Insurance		
		18-34	35-54	55-64	60+	private plan	entitlement	
Yes	20%	27	17	13	27	18	30	
No	79%	73	83	87	73	82	70	
Don't know (vol)	1%							

Question: [IF "yes," had flu shot, ASK] Do you also plan to get a swine flu shot or not?

N=132

Yes 54% No 23% Don't know (vol) 24%

Question: [If "no" flu shot yet, ASK] Do you plan to get the regular seasonal flu shot or the swine flu shot or both or do you think you'll just pass on all that?

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N=524	All	Age				Health Insurance		
		18-34	35-54	55-64	65+	private plan	entitlement	
Just the regular Flu Shot	20%	10	18	15	33	19	30	
Just the Swine Flu Shot	2%	5	1	2	2	2	1	
Will get both	21%	28	22	16	26	20	28	
Will get neither	46%	53	47	58	30	50	28	
Don't know/depends (vol)	11%	5	12	9	10	9	13	

Question: How worried are you that you or your family living there will get the swine flu in the next few months...READ?

	All	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Very or somewhat worried	23%	20	31	16	23
Not very, or not at all worried	74%	80	68	82	75
Don't know/ref. (vol)	2%			2	2