

*What is Guillain-Barre syndrome?*

It is a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system. This symptom is very rare. The first symptoms include weakness or tingling in the legs. Most people recover even from the most severe cases. It is not known what causes this syndrome to occur.

*Why does the Screening Questionnaire (section C) ask about an allergy to eggs?*

The H1N1 vaccine virus, as well as the seasonal flu vaccine virus, is grown in eggs. People who have a severe allergic reaction to eggs should not be vaccinated.

*The Data Entry Form (section A) has separate questions about ethnicity and race. What is the difference?*

Ethnicity refers to a person's cultural heritage. Race refers to someone's biological background.

*The Screening Questionnaire (section C) asks if the person being vaccinated has close contact with a person whose immune system was compromised. What does that mean?*

This means that the person who has a compromised immune system has a much higher risk of infection due to a weak immune system. Examples of situations in which people whose immune systems have been compromised are:

- Persons with HIV/AIDS
- Persons who are undergoing chemotherapy
- Persons who recently received a bone marrow transplant
- Persons with certain cancers or genetic disorders

*The Screening Questionnaire (section C) mentions chronic conditions. What are chronic conditions?*

Chronic means that a disease or symptom has built up over a period of time. Chronic conditions can include:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Lung disease
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Neuromuscular diseases such as cerebral palsy or seizures
- Blood diseases such as sickle cell anemia

*The Screening Questionnaire (section C) mentions steroids. What are steroids?*

Steroids are sometimes used in medications to treat inflammation. If someone is taking steroids, their immune system may be weakened.

*What is the difference between the flu mist and the flu shot? Are they safe?*

The flu shot contains an inactivated virus, which means that the vaccine has a killed virus in it. The flu shot is given through an injectable shot, usually in the shoulder.

The flu mist contains a weakened live virus and is given through a spray in the nose.

Both the flu mist and the flu shot are made the same way that the seasonal flu vaccine is made. It is as safe and effective as the seasonal flu vaccine that is given out every year.