

Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

The members of the National Biodefense Science Board have been closely following the planning, production and testing of the vaccine for the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. The Board members have expertise in a broad range of disciplines. We have had extensive briefings and opportunities to understand the process in detail.

We strongly support the program. We encourage the voluntary immunization of all high risk Americans as well as others who would like to be immunized.

The vaccines have been produced using the same processes, standards, facilities and manufacturers as seasonal influenza vaccines. Seasonal vaccine has an excellent safety profile and has been given to many hundreds of millions of Americans. We anticipate that the 2009 H1N1 vaccine will have a safety profile similar to the seasonal vaccine. In addition we are pleased with the systems that have been developed to monitor and review any possible adverse events to further ensure the safety.

We are concerned that many people have been confused by rumors, myths and unwarranted fears. We appreciate the work you are doing to dispel those myths.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinlisk M.D., M.P.H., Chair
on behalf of the NBSB