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La Jolla Institute finds previous seasonal flu infections may provide some level of H1N1 immunity

SAN DIEGO (November 16, 2009) Researchers at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology have found that previous influenza infections may provide at least some level of immunity to the H1N1 "swine" flu.

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We looked at the molecular markers for seasonal influenza viruses dating back 20 years and compared them with the molecular markers of the H1N1 influenza virus

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We cross-referenced the swine flu sequence data with the epitope data on previous seasonal influenza viruses

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Since the antibody recognition of the H1N1 virus was relatively low as compared to previous flu viruses, it means that the vaccine is important to prevent being infected by the H1N1 virus

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What we have found is that the swine flu has similarities to the seasonal flu, which appear to provide some level of pre-existing immunity. This suggests that it could [make the disease less severe in the general population than originally feared.](#)



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