

# **WHO concerned vaccines won't be distributed when ready**

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The World Health Organisation is concerned developing countries will lack the capacity to distribute swine flu vaccines once they become available.

WHO expects a vaccine against the "unstoppable" A(H1N1) virus to be ready in September.

It was not a matter of when the vaccine was ready but how quickly it could be distributed, WHO's director of research policy and co-operation Tikki Pang said.

"Our big concern is ... how quickly is it going to get to the countries that need it the most," Dr Pang said.

Developing countries were of particular concern because they did not have the capacity to deliver the vaccine to people who needed protection.

Australian health authorities have ordered 21 million vaccine doses, due to be distributed in October after initial testing.

They are also concerned about the increasing number of swine flu cases among young people.

Six people under the age of 40 with the virus are on life support in Sydney hospitals.

Dr Pang said the severity of the disease was not a major concern.

"Seasonal flu ... is the more severe disease, and avian influenza," he said.

So far 20 people with the virus have died in Australia.

**AAP**