



Osceola County Health Department, Epidemiology Program, 1875 Boggy Creek Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744, (407) 343-2155

H1N1 Influenza Update **October 16, 2009**

FL DOH Toll-free number to provide public health information and updates on H1N1 flu available from 8 AM to 8 PM Eastern, in English, Spanish and Creole. **Telephone Number: 877-352-3581**

- **Osceola County update:** Novel H1N1 is present in our community. Almost all cases of influenza A are currently due to this novel strain. Influenza like illness (ILI) activity has spread all over in the county. Osceola School District continues to provide the Health Department an absenteeism report with the number of students experiencing influenza like illness (ILI) in local public schools. The absentee percentage for Week 7 (10/05/09-10/09/09) was 6%, an increase from 5.59% in Week 6. During Week 7, 247 cases of ILI were reported in 47 schools. Exclusion practices, screening, infection control and environmental cleaning procedures were reviewed with individual schools that reported clusters.
- **Vaccine update:** As of Monday, October 12, 2009, there were a total of 9.7 million H1N1 vaccine doses allocated and about 5.8 million doses ordered; it appears that there will not be a shortage of vaccine. Initial doses of the H1N1 'flu shot' are expected to be shipped to different parts of the country beginning the week of October 12; additional doses are scheduled for shipment each subsequent week. Keep in mind that while some doses of vaccine will be distributed beginning the 2nd week of October, initial supplies are small and it will take several days/weeks for those doses to reach clinics and doctor's offices.
- **What are the minimum vaccine data elements required by CDC?** Minimum data requirements include age group, 1st or 2nd dose, date of vaccination and state. This data will be extracted from patient data input into the FL SHOTS system on a weekly basis. FL physicians should become familiar with FL SHOTS. Public health care providers are required to report data to FL SHOTS and private health care providers are encouraged to report doses administered in FL SHOTS as well. For those providers who do not report individual patient level information into FL SHOTS, they will be required to report aggregate numbers of doses administered each week by age group to Osceola County Health Department.
- **CDC partners with Emory University School of Medicine** to create triage algorithm for adults with influenza like illness (for use by healthcare professionals only). See <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/pdf/adultalgorithm.pdf>.
- **HHS has posted a new interactive H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation** (self-triage) to help ILI symptomatic persons determine if they should seek care immediately. It was developed in collaboration with Emory University School of Medicine. <http://www.flu.gov/evaluation/>
- **CDC updates recommendations for clinical use of influenza diagnostic testing** for 2009-10 influenza season, See www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/diagnostic_tests.htm. Key points include:
 - Most patients with clinical illness consistent with uncomplicated influenza do NOT require diagnostic influenza testing for clinical management.
 - Consider influenza diagnostic testing in patients:
 - Who are hospitalized with suspected influenza (Note: testing is available commercially; Osceola County Health Department will only be testing those hospitalized in ICU or who have died);
 - Anyone who died of an acute illness in which influenza was suspected;
 - Patients presenting to health care providers participating in the US Outpatient Influenza like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) who meet the surveillance case definition of influenza like illness (ILI)
 - Sensitivities of rapid influenza tests and immunofluorescence assays (FA) are lower than polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and viral culture; a negative rapid or FA test does not rule out influenza.
- **FDA authorizes use of certain lots of expired Tamiflu® for Oral Suspension as part of response to the 2009 H1N1 public health emergency.** FDA has conducted scientific testing and analysis to assure that these lots can be used beyond their expiration date. The lots authorized to be used beyond their expiration date are not required to be relabeled; therefore, healthcare professionals will need to be able to explain this to patients. To verify a specific lot has been authorized for use beyond its expiration date, see <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm154962.htm>.
- **Hospitalized U.S. 2009 H1N1 influenza patients summarized.** Of the 272 patients hospitalized between April-June 2009 included in the summary, 25% were admitted to an ICU and 7% died. Almost half (45%) of the hospitalized patients were children while only 5% were aged 65 years or older. Seventy-three percent had underlying medical conditions. See <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0906695> early on-line publication 10/8/09. Summary of ICU cases from Australia and New Zealand also available at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0908481>

