



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

H1N1 Influenza Update **October 23, 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 are currently due to this novel strain and illness is "localized" 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 8 (10/12/09-10/16/09) was 5.79%, an decrease from 6.00% in Week 7. During Week 8, 353 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 Friday, October 16, 2009, there were 11 million H1N1 vaccine doses allocated and about 7.98 million doses ordered in the US. It appears that there will be no shortage of vaccine. Osceola County Health Department received a shipment of initial doses of the H1N1 'flu shot' and it was disbursed to our community providers such as Pediatricians and Ob/Gyn specialists. Additional doses are scheduled for shipment each week. It is important to keep in mind that initial supplies are small and it will take several days for those doses to reach clinics and doctors' offices. Please check our website for updated information at <http://www.osceolahealth.org/>
- **Hospitalizations and Deaths, US update Reported to CDC:** From August 30, 2009 through October 10, 2009, the US reported 4,958 laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 hospitalizations. The percentage of deaths for 2009 H1N1 flu in the US varies by age group. From August 30, 2009 through October 10, 2009, the US reported 292 laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 deaths. The percentage of 2009 H1N1 related deaths that occurred among people zero to 4 years was 3%; among those 5 to 18 years was 14%; among people 19 to 24 years was 7%; among people 25 to 49 years was 33%; among people 50-64 years was 32%; and among people 65 years and older was 12%.
- **Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)** is a US vaccine safety surveillance system, co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). VAERS will be the front-line monitoring system for collecting and analyzing voluntary reports of adverse events following 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccination. CDC and FDA will analyze VAERS reports to identify potential vaccine safety concerns that may need further study or public health action.

For health care providers there are three ways to report to VAERS:

- 1) Submit online via a secure website at <https://secure.vaers.org/VaersDataEntryintro.htm> or
- 2) Print and fax the completed VAERS form to 877-721-0366 or
- 3) Print and mail the completed VAERS form to VAERS, P.O. Box 1100, Rockville, MD 20849-1100.



For additional information on VAERS or vaccine safety, visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **800-822-7967**.

- Most healthy persons who develop an illness consistent with uncomplicated influenza or persons who appear to be recovering from influenza, do not need antiviral medications for treatment or prophylaxis. **[CDC updated its recommendations for the use of influenza antiviral medicines](#)** to provide additional guidance for clinicians in prescribing antiviral medicines for treatment and prevention (chemoprophylaxis) of influenza during the 2009-2010 flu season. To help clinicians prioritize use of antiviral drugs for treatment and prevention of influenza, please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/>.
- **2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Vaccine** is now widely available. Please know that the seasonal flu vaccine will not protect you against Novel 2009 H1N1. The viruses are different even though signs and symptoms are similar. Osceola County Health Department is expecting another shipment of seasonal flu vaccine very soon. To find a clinic where can receive the flu shot now, go to the American Lung Association's Flu Clinic Locator at <http://www.flucliniclocator.org/>. Once there, enter your zip code into the Flu Clinic Locator area located on the right. You will get the date, times, address and phone number of clinics offering flu shots near you as well as a map showing where the clinic is located. The American Lung Association updates the Clinic Locator information almost daily so you will always get the most up-to-date flu clinic information.
- **Did you know?** A live attenuated vaccine (LAIV) can be given at the same time as an inactivated influenza vaccine, e.g., seasonal LAIV and 2009 H1N1 inactivated vaccine can be given together or 2009 H1N1 LAIV and seasonal trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine can be given together as per the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP's) General Immunization recommendations.