



This is the 22nd edition of a weekly summary of critical updates and activities from the Florida Department of Health disseminated to assist with H1N1 activities.

NATIONAL

[An Open Letter to the American People about the H1N1 Flu Vaccine](#)

In an Open Letter to the American People, over thirty major health care provider and public health organizations encouraged Americans to get the H1N1 vaccine. This letter emphasizes that the H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect against the flu.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/open_letter_h1n1_vaccine.htm

[Q and A: Fraud and Abuse Related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine](#)

This document provides information to state/local immunization programs regarding options for reporting certain criminal, fraud and abuse matters relating to the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and ancillary supplies.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/h1n1_fraud_abuse.htm

[Influenza and Pneumonia-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30, 2009 to January 2, 2010](#)

Flu Activity: Overall flu activity in the United States decreased slightly during the week of December 27-January 2, 2010, as reported in FluView. Though flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal flu viruses, may rise and fall, it is expected to continue for several more months.

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/updates/us/#totalcases>

Additional information released included CDC guidance updates, fact sheets, frequently asked questions & answers on H1N1, 30-second radio PSAs on National Influenza Vaccination Week, influenza hospitalizations and deaths, the FluView map, in addition to an update in the international H1N1 situation. To view these and other updates, visit CDC's "What's New" section at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/whatsnew.htm>

STATE

- General clinical testing and treatment recommendations by age group:
Recommended testing for a person with severe influenza-like illness where treatment decisions could depend on a virologic diagnosis:

[Updated H1N1 Testing, Antiviral Treatment and Surveillance Guidance for Clinicians for the Current Low Influenza Levels in Florida](#) (Source: Source: Florida Department of Health, Epidemiology)

Continue to utilize the following resources to obtain the most current, accurate information regarding H1N1 flu:

- Your local county health department: www.osecolahealth.org or <http://www.floridashealth.com>

- The Florida Department of Health's flu information website: <http://www.myflusafety.com> and the Healthcare and Flu clinic locations pages: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/Healthcare.htm> and <http://www.myflusafety.com/myfluclinic.htm>.

Florida-specific disease data may be found on the Department of Health's, Bureau of Epidemiology Site:
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctr/epi/swineflu/Reports/reports.htm