



H1N1 Influenza Update

August 24, 2009

The Florida Department of Health launched a toll-free number to provide public health information and updates on H1N1 Swine flu available from 8 AM to 8 PM Eastern, 7 days a week in English, Spanish and Creole.

Telephone Number: 877-352-3581

Summary

- Novel H1N1 influenza infections continue to create higher levels of influenza-like illness than is normal for this time of year. CDC estimates that between April and June 2009, more than one million cases of pandemic novel H1N1 influenza occurred in the United States. As of August 21, 2009, 7,983 total novel H1N1 influenza hospitalizations and 522 total deaths have been reported to the CDC by state and local public health departments.
- **Osceola County update:** As of August 24, 2009, 5 hospitalized cases of pandemic H1N1 influenza and 1 fatality have been reported in Osceola county residents; 60% of the influenza subtyped at Osceola county since late May has been pandemic H1N1.
- CDC updates guidance for businesses and employers for the 2009-2010 influenza season. See www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/guidance for the full guidance. Key messages include:

Actions to take now

- All persons with influenza-like illness should stay home and away from the workplace for at least 24 hours after fever resolves and temperature remains normal without the use of fever-reducing medications and regardless of whether antivirals have been started.
 - ◊ Ensure that sick leave policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance
 - ◊ Do not require a doctor's note for workers ill with influenza-like illness to validate illness as these requests may overwhelm medical facilities
- Encourage respiratory etiquette and handwashing.
- Ensure that routine cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is performed regularly.
- Prepare for school dismissal or temporary closure of child care programs.



Actions to consider if severity increases

- Screen employees for illness when they report to work.
- Evaluate alternate work environments for employees at higher risk of complications of influenza.
- Implement social distancing in the workplace (goal ≥ 6 feet of distance between people).
 - ◊ Avoid crowded work settings and space workers farther apart
 - ◊ Cancel non-essential face-to-face meetings
 - ◊ Allow teleworking and/or staggered shifts
 - ◊ Cancel non-essential business travel

Novel H1N1 Vaccination Planning

- The federal government plans to have 280 million doses of novel H1N1 vaccine available this flu season. The first 40 million doses to be available in mid-October. The vaccine is in clinical trials now to assure safety and efficacy against the novel H1N1 virus. Two doses will be needed to confer immunity to the virus. Vaccination will be voluntary and provided at no cost.
- CDC has recommended that initial vaccination efforts for novel H1N1 focus on five key populations: pregnant women; people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age; healthcare and emergency services personnel; all people 6 months through 24 years of age; and people 25 through 64 years of age with underlying health conditions which put them at risk for influenza complications. If vaccine becomes available in limited quantities, CDC will provide additional guidance for further prioritizing within the target populations.
- Individual States will be responsible for distribution of the federal novel H1N1 vaccine supply. Osceola County Health Department is working with local partners (hospitals, clinics and schools) to develop local distribution plans to assure timely access to vaccine for all priority populations.
- You can visit our local website at: <http://www.osceolahealth.org/> for additional updates and information.