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H1N1 Influenza Update **December 11, 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 continues to be present in our community, influenza like illness (ILI) activity still remains “localized” all over the county. The number of cases of ILI in the public school system for Week 15 (11/30 to 12/4/09) was 137. Absentee percentage for this week was 5.38%; an increase from 5.37% in week 13.
- **Influenza in the US, week ending 11/28/2009:** From August 30 to November 28, 2009, there were 31,220 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations and 1,336 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths. Over 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC this week were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. Flu activity continues to be widespread in 25 states. National influenza activity continues to decrease, but still remains elevated for this time of year. Pneumonia and influenza deaths have remained above the epidemic threshold for the past nine weeks. Although influenza activity does appear to be decreasing, it may come in waves especially with holiday gatherings and also when seasonal strains emerge.
- **2009 H1N1 Flu - International situation update:** The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is the predominant influenza virus in circulation in most countries worldwide. According to World Health Organization (WHO), the majority of 2009 H1N1 influenza isolates tested worldwide remain sensitive to oseltamivir (Tamiflu). Ninety-six 2009 H1N1 isolates tested worldwide have been found to be resistant to oseltamivir; 26 of these isolates were detected in the US. In temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI activity due to 2009 H1N1 remains high across many countries in Europe and North America, though it may have peaked in most areas of the United States, Canada, and Northern and Western Europe.
- **Vaccine update Osceola county:** As of 12/7/09 there were a total of 72.6 million H1N1 vaccine doses allocated and about 68.8 M doses ordered in the US. 3.6 M doses have been shipped to Florida as of 12/04/09. Osceola County Health Department held its 1st school vaccination event on 11/18/09, the 2nd one was held in St. Cloud on 12/02/09 and the 3rd at Liberty High School on 12/09/09. The next event is scheduled for 12/15/09 at Celebration High School and one more Health Department sponsored vaccination event at Harmony High School (St. Cloud) will be conducted December 16th. **The H1N1 vaccine is available to these priority groups:** *Pregnant women, household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, all people from 6 months through 24 years of age, persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza* at several locations throughout the community, please check our website for updated information <http://www.osceolahealth.org/H1N1SwineFlu.html>.
- **Q&A available for caregivers giving Tamiflu** - instructions for caregivers on how to open and mix Tamiflu® capsules with a thick sweetened liquid for children who cannot swallow capsules. See http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antivirals/mixing_tamiflu_qa.htm.
- **Don't follow links to websites referencing a CDC sponsored State Vaccination Program for H1N1 “Swine Flu”.** This is a phishing scam and can result in malicious code being installed on your system. See http://www.cdc.gov/hoaxes_rumors.html.
- **CDC Podcast for parents of children with high-risk medical conditions** - This podcast, intended for parents, discusses high-risk medical conditions that put children at risk for flu complications and how to protect children from the flu; created: 11/25/2009 by National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities <http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/>.
- **CDC updates guidance for managing influenza-like illness on commercial aircrafts:** <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/air-crew-dom-intl.htm>.
- **FDA approves additional seasonal influenza vaccine product. “Agriflu,” made by Novartis,** has been distributed in other countries for the past 20 years and is now approved for use in adults in the U.S. Some doses may be distributed in the U.S. as soon as this winter. For more information, see <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm192148.htm>.



As the holidays approach, protect yourself and your loved ones by 1) getting vaccinated against seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1, if you are in a priority group recommended for vaccination; 2) staying home when ill; 3) covering your cough and/or sneeze; and 4) washing your hands.