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H1N1 Influenza Update **December 18, 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 in 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%; a slight increase from 5.37% in week 14.
- **Influenza in the US, week ending 12/5/2009:** From August 30 to December 5, 2009: there were 33,490 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 1,445 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 14 states with Florida reported regional influenza activity. 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 ten weeks. Although influenza activity does appear to be decreasing, it may come in waves, especially with holiday gatherings and also when seasonal strains emerge. Since August 30, 2009, CDC has received 204 reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths that occurred during the current influenza season (37 deaths in children less than 2 years old, 21 deaths in children 2-4 years old, 76 deaths in children 5-11 years old and 70 deaths in children 12-17 years old).
- **2009 H1N1 Flu - International situation update:** The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus continues to be 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). One hundred and two 2009 H1N1 isolates tested worldwide have been found to be resistant to oseltamivir; 29 of these isolates were detected in the US.
- **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, the 3rd at Liberty High School on 12/09/09, the 4th at Celebration High School on 12/15/09 and the 5th at Harmony High School. A Health Department sponsored vaccination event will be open to the general public and will be conducted in the month of January. **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>.
- **CDC updates antiviral recommendations** - Updated items include information about the use of IV peramivir, dosing of oseltamivir for children under age one year based on weight, and treatment and prophylaxis considerations in persons vaccinated against influenza. See www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/recommendations.htm. Recent British Medical Journal review of previous studies on effects of neuraminidase inhibitors does not change current recommendations.
- **CDC updates home care guide** - New pamphlet format includes discussion of symptoms to expect, when to call the doctor, how to prevent dehydration and tips for caregivers (note: new guidance does not recommend masks or respirators for caregivers). See <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/homecare/pdf/homecareguide.pdf>.
- **Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) convenes experts to answer frequently asked questions about antiviral therapy** - Issues addressed include treatment of pregnant women, newborns and critically ill. See <http://www.idsociety.org/Content.aspx?id=15743>.
- **H1N1 Preparedness Tools for Professionals** – Includes tools to estimate human health burden, hospital surge and work loss. See http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/tools/?s_cid=ccu120709_toolsforprofessionals.e.

As the holidays approach, protect yourself and your loved ones by:

- 1) Getting vaccinated against seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 especially if you are in a priority group which has been recommended for vaccination;
- 2) Staying home when ill;
- 3) Covering your cough and sneeze; and
- 4) Washing your hands frequently.

