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H1N1 Influenza Update **November 20, 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. This strain and 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 12 (11/9/09 to 11/13/09) was 110. The absentee percentage for this week was 4.70%, a slight decrease from 4.71% in week 11.
- Influenza in the US, week ending 11/7/2009:** From August 30 to November 7, 2009, there were 22,364 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations and 877 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 48 states.
- 2009 H1N1 Flu - International situation update:** Pandemic activity is showing early signs of peaking in some parts of North America. It's on the rise in several European countries and in Central and Eastern Asia per the World Health Organization (WHO) report of November 13, 2009. WHO also reported that its initial investigation into a sharp rise in cases in the Ukraine found that the number of severe cases were not out of line when compared with pandemic outbreaks in other countries and do not portray changes in pandemic H1N1 transmission or virulence. More than 99% of viruses sub-typed in Europe are pandemic H1N1 strain except in the Russian Federation where 10% were seasonal H3N2 and H1N1 subtypes.
- Vaccine update:** As of 11/16/09, there were a total of 47.5 million (M) H1N1 vaccine doses allocated and about 42.5 M doses ordered in the US. Of the available doses, 35.9 M doses were injectable and 11.6 M were nasal spray vaccine; 2 M doses have been shipped to FL as of 11/11/09. Osceola County Health Department held its first school vaccination event on 11/18/09; 4 more health department sponsored vaccination events in the public schools will be conducted in the month December when more vaccine is available. **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 and FDA release weekly reports on vaccine safety providing a summary on adverse event data that can be viewed publicly through VAERS** (www.vaers.hhs.org) or the CDC website, WONDER (<http://wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html>). The first report was posted 11/12/09 on the VAERS Web site. Access it at http://vaers.hhs.gov/resources/2009H1N1Summary_Nov9.pdf. The summary includes: number of vaccine doses shipped, number of adverse events reported to VAERS weekly, percentage of serious adverse event reported and a general description of serious adverse events. When reviewing the data, keep in mind that VAERS is a passive reporting system, meaning reports about adverse events can be submitted voluntarily by anyone including healthcare providers, patients or family members. Because of this, VAERS reports may (and often do) include incorrect and incomplete information. VAERS reports often lead to more complete follow-up and review of medical records later by the CDC. For additional information on VAERS or vaccine safety call **800-822-7967**.
- CDC urges Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) vaccination of persons with increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease.** During previous pandemics and with the current H1N1, secondary bacterial infections with *Streptococcus Pneumoniae* have been reported including fatal cases. PPSV is available for high risk patients 2 years of age and older. A conjugate vaccine is recommended for children < 5 years of age. For more information, see <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/provider/lettertoprovider.htm?rss>.
- CSL 2009 H1N1 Monovalent Vaccine now approved for children** (≥ 6 months of age) as well as adults. The 0.25 ml prefilled syringes for children 6 months to 3 years of age have also been approved. See <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm181975.htm>
- Information for Pregnant Women Working in Education, Child Care, and Health Care Settings Concerning 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus.** Key message for employers and employees in work settings where pregnant employees are likely to be exposed to 2009 H1N1, take every precaution to prevent infection. Recommended strategies to decrease the likelihood of employee exposure to H1N1 virus include implementation of infection control strategies in the work place and work policies that support sick employees being away from the workplace. Implementation of employee education about influenza symptoms will support early self-recognition of possible illness and may help decrease overall exposure to the virus in the workplace. For more information visit <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/pregnant-hcw-educators.htm>.

