



## H1N1 Influenza Update September 25, 2009

- **Osceola County update:** Novel H1N1 is present in our community. Almost all cases of influenza are currently due to the novel strain. Influenza-like-illness (ILI) activity is localized in Osceola county. This is the first year we have continued to observe flu activity into the summer months.  
The Osceola District Schools provide the Health Department a weekly attendance and an absenteeism report with the number of students experiencing ILI in public schools . The absentee percentage for Week 1 (08/24/09 – 08/28/09) was 1.55%, for Week 2 (08/31/09 – 09/04/09) was 2.41%, for Week 3 ((09/08/09-09/11/09) was 4.75% and for Week 4 (09/14/09 – 09/18/09) was 3.58 %.
- **CDC published Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season** . Clinical judgment is an important factor in treatment decisions. Most patients who have had 2009 H1N1 virus infection have had a self-limited respiratory illness similar to typical seasonal influenza. Most healthy persons who develop suspected or confirmed 2009 H1N1 influenza or seasonal influenza who present with an uncomplicated febrile illness generally do not require antiviral treatment. In addition, persons who appear to be recovering from influenza generally do not require antiviral treatment. However, some groups appear to be at increased risk of influenza-related complications. Evidence for benefits from antiviral treatment in studies of uncomplicated seasonal influenza is strongest when treatment is started within 48 hours of illness onset.
  1. Treatment is recommended for all hospitalized patients with confirmed, probable or suspected 2009 H1N1 or seasonal influenza.
  2. Early empiric treatment should be considered for outpatients who are at higher risk for influenza-related complications. Clinical judgment should be used in deciding whether outpatients with risk factors for influenza-related complications require treatment.
  3. Treatment with oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza) is recommended for persons with suspected or confirmed influenza who are severely ill or who are showing evidence of rapid clinical deterioration. Signs and symptoms of severe illness due to suspected influenza are in indication for immediate treatment, regardless of previous health or age.
  4. Treatment should be initiated empirically when the decision is made to treat patients who have illnesses that are clinically compatible with influenza. Treatment should not await laboratory confirmation because laboratory-based testing could delay treatment and because a negative rapid test does not rule out influenza.
- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) provides information on early results from clinical trials of 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines.** The early data from these trials indicate that 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccines are well tolerated and induce a strong immune response in most healthy adults when administered in a single unadjuvanted 15-microgram dose (same amount used in seasonal flu vaccines). Among healthy adults who received a single 15-microgram dose of the Sanofi Pasteur vaccine, a robust immune response was measured in 96 percent of adults aged 18 to 64 and in 56 percent of adults aged 65 and older. Similarly, among healthy adults who received a single 15-microgram dose of the CSL Limited vaccine, a robust immune response was measured in 80 percent of adults aged 18 to 64 and in 60 percent of adults aged 65 and older. NIAID will continue to provide timely updates on these trials as well as those in children and in pregnant women, which began later.
- **Provider Registration for H1N1 Vaccine:** First, register in Florida SHOTS as this will be used to order and track vaccine inventory. Pre-registration will be used to validate a physician's status. By registering in Florida SHOTS, providers will have vaccine and immunization supplies directly shipped to their practice location as soon as vaccine is available. Anticipate limited supply to be available starting mid October, with weekly shipments thereafter. If you have any questions regarding Florida SHOTS, please call 1-877-888-SHOT. Registration is available at: <http://www.flshots.org/>. As of 9/23/09, Osceola county has 35 providers registered in FL Shots for a total of requesting a total of 296,490 doses.
- **H1N1 Mass Vaccination Campaign Planning and Activities:** OsCHD is working with Osceola District School Board to schedule vaccination events at schools targeting the school age children. OsCHD is also in discussion with various municipality and county Emergency Medical Services, police, fire and city officials in planning and conducting mass vaccination points of distribution (PODs). In addition, OsCHD will conduct vaccination clinics at our different sites in November and December 2009 to enable OsCHD to vaccinate priority groups. Final details will be worked out when adequate vaccine stocks are available. As these details become available, they will be published.

