



H1N1 Influenza Update

August 31 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

- As of 8/28/09, 8,843 total novel H1N1 influenza hospitalizations and 556 total deaths have been reported to the CDC by state and local public health departments in the United States. 605 hospitalizations and 66 deaths have been reported in Florida.
- **Osceola County update:** As of 8/28/09, 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. Influenza activity in our county remains sporadic based on reports received from our county influenza sentinel providers. The report shows **only** cases confirmed as influenza by the FL Department of Health Lab, and represents the distribution of flu in the state, not an actual count of all flu cases. The activity level may change to localized as we are seeing clusters of influenza-like illness in schools, as expected with the start of school. This is likely due to the continued spread of H1N1 influenza.
- **International update:** Decreases in disease due to 2009 H1N1 continue to be reported from South America and parts of Australia. The United Kingdom is also reporting national decreases in disease due to 2009 H1N1. In contrast, disease associated with 2009 H1N1 influenza is continuing to increase in southern Africa and more African countries have reported their first cases. In addition, 2009 H1N1 continues to circulate in tropical countries.
- There have been no significant changes detected in the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus isolated from persons in the Southern Hemisphere as compared to viruses isolated from persons in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Pandemic H1N1 2009 virus rapidly overtook seasonal influenza strains in New Zealand (NZ). Pandemic H1N1 was first identified in southern hemisphere in NZ on April 25, 2009, following the return of a group of high school students from Mexico. NZ entered its winter season (summer months here) with co-circulation of both seasonal and pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza strains. By week ending 7/5/09, 80% of influenza identified through sentinel surveillance in NZ was 2009 H1N1 and 87% in neighboring Australia by 7/12/09. Physician influenza-like illness consultation rates in NZ were three times that seen in 2008 and the highest seen since 1997. See MMWR 8/28/2009 issue, available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.
- CDC issues guidance and toolkit for response to influenza for institutions of higher education for the 2009-2010 academic year: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/>.
- CDC Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) publishes recommendations for use of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine. See MMWR Recommendations and Reports (8/28/09) at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. Initial target groups are:
 - Pregnant women
 - People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
 - Healthcare and emergency services personnel
 - Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years, and
 - People from 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.



Pandemic influenza H1N1 vaccine is coming soon! The following groups can provide this vaccine:

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| • Hospitals | • Clinics (public and private) |
| • Physicians | • Community health centers |
| • Employee health programs | • Community vaccinators |
| • Pharmacies (chain and independent) | • Health plans |

If you would like to receive information and updates by email, please send an email to Ana_scuteri@doh.state.fl.us
 We will post updated information on our website on how to pre-register and order vaccine, for details, see: <http://www.osceolahealth.org/H1N1SwineFlu.html> or call us at 407- 943-7035.