

November 9, 2009

H₁N₁ Influenza A Update

New York Statewide School Health Services Center

CDC Key Flu Indicators for October 25 - 31

During the week of October 25-31, 2009, a review of the key indicators found that influenza activity remained high in the United States. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) nationally decreased very slightly this week over last week after four consecutive weeks of sharp increases. While ILI declined slightly, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness remain at much higher levels than what is expected for this time of the year and parts of the country continue to see sharp increases in activity. It's possible that nationwide ILI could rise again. ILI continues to be higher than what is seen during the peak of most regular flu seasons.
- Total influenza hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu are climbing and are higher than expected for this time of year. Hospitalization rates continue to be highest in younger populations with the highest hospitalization rate reported in children 0-4 years old.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report continues to increase and has been higher for five weeks now than what is expected at this time of year. In addition, 18 flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week; 15 of these deaths were confirmed 2009 H1N1, and three were influenza A viruses, but were not subtyped. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 129 laboratory-confirmed pediatric 2009 H1N1 deaths and another 15 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but where the flu virus subtype was not determined.
- Forty-eight states, including New York are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time; a decline of one state over last week. This many reports of widespread activity at this time of year are unprecedented during seasonal flu.
- Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

From the NYS Department of Health

Current key findings from flu monitoring systems in New York State (NYS) for the week ending October 31, 2009, include:

- The overall level of flu activity is currently high and appears to be increasing when compared to last week.
 - The number of people hospitalized with flu is currently moderate and appears to be increasing when compared to last week.
 - The number of people dying with flu in NYS (outside of NYC) is currently 4 reported this week.
 - The total number of deaths associated with H1N1 flu reported in NYS (outside of NYC) since September 1, 2009, is 12.
 - The total number of deaths associated with H1N1 flu reported in NYS (outside of NYC) since April 24, 2009, is 38.
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Public Service Announcements

There are Public Service Announcements available from Flu.gov that especially appeal to younger students. Consider using these for video presentations or on the morning announcements.

They are available at:
<http://www.flu.gov/psa/>

H₁N₁ Influenza A Cases

New York State Department of Health

Week ending	Flu A	Flu B	Flu, type unknown	Total
October 31	3751	9	18	3778

Centers for Disease Control – National Data as of November 3, 2009

Cases Defined by	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Influenza Laboratory-Tests*	17,838	672

World Health Organization – Pandemic Alert Level – Phase 6