



Weekly H1N1 Influenza Situation Update

September 17, 2009

About this Weekly Update

This publication will be released Thursday afternoons throughout fall 2009 and early winter 2010 to assist healthcare and emergency medical services organizations and personnel in preparing for and responding to Novel H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) in Southern Maine.

Each update will contain:

- Influenza surveillance data for U.S. and Maine
- Important dates of upcoming meetings, conference calls, and trainings
- Updated news and guidance regarding vaccination, testing, treatment, personal protection, etc.
- Strategies to keep informed about H1N1, and communicating with experts and planners

Remember that the best ways to protect yourself from flu are:

- **WASH** your hands
- **COVER** your cough
- **STAY HOME** if you're sick
- **GET** vaccinated

Surveillance

US CDC reported 1,380 hospitalizations and 196 deaths nationwide between August 30, and September 5, 2009. As of Sept. 6, the World Health Organization reported at least 3,205 deaths from H1N1 and reports of H1N1 from more than 200 countries.

Maine has identified 381 cases of H1N1, which include 19 individuals requiring hospitalization and one individual who has died. There have been no new outbreaks or institutions since the last update. The outbreak at Bowdoin College is ongoing. Of Maine residents with H1N1, 63 percent have been under 25 years of age. The number of cases is only a barometer of community transmission, not of actual case counts, because not all people with infection are tested. (Source: Maine CDC/DHHS, 9/17/09)

Important Dates

Maine CDC will be holding a conference call for child care providers from noon to 1 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21. The call-in number is 1-800-914-3396, pass code is 473623.

SMRRC is hosting a "Southern Maine Regional Influenza Preparedness and Response Meeting" on October 7, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, ME. This meeting targets healthcare and EMS professionals in decision-making positions within their organizations around seasonal and H1N1 influenza. This event is specific to the Southern Maine Region, inclusive of York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln Counties. Registration information and agenda will be available soon at: <http://www.smrrc.org/>

Updated News and Guidance

Vaccine planning with communities and schools is well underway to ensure that all Maine children, all health care providers and Emergency Medical Services personnel, pregnant women, and others in high-risk groups for H1N1 are offered H1N1 vaccine as soon as it arrives in Maine.

H1N1 influenza vaccine: Licensed health care providers may now [register](#) to receive H1N1 vaccine. Additional information can be found at www.maine flu.gov. H1N1 vaccine is expected to arrive in Maine in mid-October, with a possible small shipment in early October. The earliest vaccine will be targeted to healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, and other high-priority individuals (i.e. pregnant women). Enough vaccine will then be available to all priority groups. Eventually, sufficient vaccine is expected for everyone.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) that it has approved four vaccines against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. Based on preliminary data from adults participating in multiple clinical studies, the 2009 H1N1 vaccines induce a robust immune response in most healthy adults eight to 10 days after a **single** dose, as occurs with the seasonal influenza vaccine. Clinical studies under way will provide additional information about the optimal dose in children. The recommendations for dosing will be updated if indicated by findings from those studies, expected soon. Furthermore, the vaccine is an excellent match for the H1N1 virus, which has remained genetically stable to this point.

Seasonal influenza vaccine: Maine CDC has distributed about 49,000 seasonal flu vaccine for children and 55,000 for adults. 11 schools have conducted seasonal flu vaccine clinics this week, and about 116 school districts or schools have registered to offer seasonal flu vaccine clinics.

Maine CDC has posted an updated FAQ for the general public at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/swine-flu-public-faq.shtml>

A continuously updated FAQ for healthcare providers and EMS personnel, plus additional updates and planning documents, are accessible at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>

On September 1, 2009, Governor John E. Baldacci signed a Proclamation of Civil Emergency Due to a Highly Infectious Agent to allow the State to better respond to the potential dangers of H1N1 influenza and to facilitate a statewide vaccination campaign. The proclamation protects vaccination clinic participants from liability. The proclamation also will provide immunity from tort liability for approved health care workers who administer seasonal influenza and H1N1 Influenza vaccines.

Healthcare workers who volunteer to provide vaccinations in school or community clinics must register with **MAINE RESPONDS** (www.maineresponds.org) to receive state liability protection. Maine Responds will verify the credentials of registered volunteers, and names of verified volunteers will be added to a list posted by Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_news_display.shtml?id=79232. If the volunteer is not on this list, he or she should not assume that they are covered by the Governor's declaration.

Healthcare workers who will administer vaccine as part of their regular employment are not required to register with Maine Responds, as liability coverage is traditionally provided by the employer for healthcare providers working within their normal scope of practice.

For additional information please contact Amanda Walker, Maine Responds Program Coordinator at (207) 662-5142 or by email at walkea2@mmc.org.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued its [report](#) to US CDC and OSHA with their recommendations for the use of protective personal equipment (PPE) in clinical settings. Their recommendations confirmed the current US CDC [guidance issued in May](#) that N95 respirators be used in clinical settings by health care workers in close contact with those with H1N1 or influenza-like illness. CDC anticipates that their updated recommendations should be available by October. Maine CDC is not planning to issue guidance until after US CDC issues their updated recommendations. (Source: Maine CDC/DHHS, 9/17/09)

US CDC issued a Q&A on reporting influenza and pneumonia-related hospitalizations and deaths: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/reportingqa.htm>

Stay Informed

Maine CDC General Public Call-In Number: 1-888-257-0990 (M-F, 9-5)

Maine CDC Healthcare Provider Disease Reporting and Information Line: 1-800-821-5821 (24/7)

Maine CDC General Influenza Questions: flu.questions@maine.gov

Maine CDC Medical/Clinical Influenza Questions: disease.reporting@maine.gov

Maine CDC H1N1 Information: www.maineflu.gov

U.S. CDC H1N1 Information: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and www.flu.gov

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