



Regional Resource Center for
Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Weekly H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Situation Update

December 31, 2009

About this Weekly Update

This publication will be released most weeks 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, reporting, treatment, personal protection, etc.
- Strategies to keep you informed

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

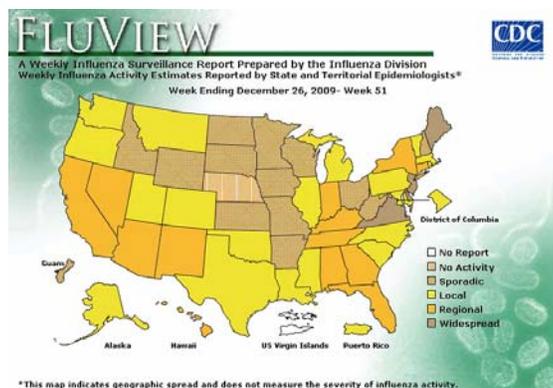
- **WASH** your hands
- **COVER** your cough
- **STAY HOME** if you're sick
- **GET VACCINATED**

View all *SMRRC H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Situation Updates* (including archives) at: www.smrrc.org

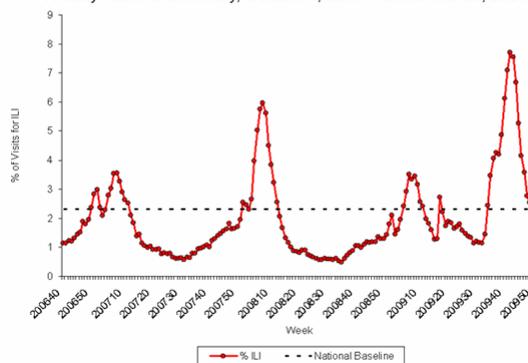
Surveillance

National

During the week of December 20-26, 2009, flu activity decreased slightly in the United States as reported in [FluView](#). Four states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. Flu-related hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline, but remain high compared to what is expected for this time of year. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) continue to be above the epidemic threshold. Four influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Two of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection and two were associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was undetermined. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.2% which is above the national baseline of 2.3%. Two of the 10 regions (1 and 10) reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. (Source: US CDC, 12/31/09)



Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, October 1, 2006 – December 26, 2009



Maine

The 2009 H1N1 flu continues to be widespread in Maine.

There have been no additional deaths due to H1N1 reported in the past week. The 17 H1N1-related deaths since August 2009 have occurred in people with underlying health conditions, the vast majority with multiple serious underlying conditions. There were 3 new hospitalizations last week, down from 9 the previous week, and all among those ages 50-64. Two of these were admitted to intensive care. One K-12 school outbreak was reported. (Source: Maine DHHS/MCDC, 12/29/09)

Maine CDC reports 2,214 lab tested cases of H1N1 among Maine Residents since 4/27/09

- 220 Maine residents have been hospitalized
- 17 deaths reported to date
- 89% of lab confirmed H1N1 cases in Maine are under the age of 50 (range 0-89 years, mean of 22 years)

New This Week in Maine

- Federal Flu Code: Widespread
- **13** new confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 this week
 - 3 new hospitalizations
- 1 new outbreaks reported in a K-12 school.

Characteristics of Lab Confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases - Maine Residents, 2009

Age Group	Age #	Age		At Risk			Hospital Care			Deaths		
		New	HCW	New	Pregnant	New	Hospitalized	New	ICU	New	#	New
<5	245	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	4	0	0	0
5 to 18	1012	5	1	0	0	0	29	0	6	0	0	0
19 to 24	219	2	11	1	8	0	14	0	1	0	1	0
25 to 49	475	2	36	0	23	0	59	0	13	0	2	0
50 to 64	202	3	14	0	0	0	61	3	23	2	6	0
≥65	61	1	0	0	0	0	30	0	10	0	8	0
Total	2214	13	62	1	31	0	220	3	57	2	17	0

(Source: Maine DHHS/MCDC, 12/29/09)

For more information on influenza disease activity, visit: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm (US); and www.maineflu.gov (ME)

Important Dates

H1N1 Conference Calls: Maine CDC will **not** hold H1N1 Stakeholders conference calls for the next several weeks. Future calls will be listed in advance in this or similar updates.

Updated News and Guidance

People with underlying health conditions should seek vaccine at their primary care providers, specialty providers, or at public clinics listed at www.maineflu.gov and 211. Anyone with underlying health conditions who experiences flu-like symptoms should contact his or her health care provider immediately to receive a prescription for antiviral medications (such as Tamiflu®).

H1N1 Vaccine Administration – Supply and Prioritization

Maine CDC expects to have close to 700,000 cumulative doses of H1N1 vaccine in the state by January 4, 2010 – enough for more than half of the state's population. The nasal spray vaccine continues to be generally more available than injectable vaccine. **Maine CDC requests that nasal spray vaccine be given to anyone who is eligible to receive it. The nasal spray vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine option for healthy people ages 2 through 49 years old who are not pregnant.** For more information on nasal spray vaccine, see Fact Sheet at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/LAIV_factsheet.pdf.

There have been delays in the distributing of vaccine over the past two weeks, primarily due to federal CDC holiday shipping schedules and, to some degree, the state shutdown day. The CDC expects these delays to dissipate the first week of January, though snowstorms in Maine or on the East Coast could cause additional delays. This has resulted in providers not receiving their expected weekly supply. The CDC is working diligently to ensure that traditional health care providers (hospitals, private practices, health centers, home health agencies, municipal health departments) have sufficient vaccine. The CDC is increasingly distributing vaccine to other health care providers, such as those in employment and in retail settings. Offering vaccine in these other settings will help serve many people who may have difficulty obtaining vaccine in traditional health care settings and should help reduce the burden on traditional health care providers. (Source: Maine CDC 12/30 & MaineHealth 12/31/09)

Important Information/Reminders for Vaccine Administrators (Source: Maine CDC 12/30/09)

For health care providers **to receive vaccine for the first time to administer to patients** there is a simple two-step process:

1. Register for a PIN: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/provider-agreement-2009-2010.shtml>.
2. Once the PIN is received, place an order for vaccine:
<http://www.maine.gov/DHHS/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>.

Please note that **all H1N1 vaccine providers and/or administrators must submit the vaccine administration data into Maine CDC's weekly vaccine reporting system.** The weekly vaccine reporting form can be found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/health-care-providers.shtml>. Detailed instructions are also available at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/H1N1-Weekly-Reporting-Form-instructions.pdf>.

If a health care provider is **already registered but is running low on H1N1 vaccine**, the provider should:

- Confirm that you have placed orders for all the vaccine you need. You may order more by completing this form:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/h1n1-vaccine-orderform.shtml>.
- It often takes 7-10 days to replenish a health care provider's vaccine supply. If you have **acute vaccine needs** or other related concerns or questions, email flu.questions@maine.gov or call the Immunization Program at: 287-3746 or toll free at 1-800-867-4775 Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm.

If local **vaccine supplies are not sufficient** while awaiting more vaccine, Maine CDC recommends **focusing the limited supply on those patients in the five high priority groups** (pregnant women, people ages 6 months through 24 years-old, people 25 through 64 years-old with an underlying medical condition, caregivers and household contacts of infants younger than 6 months, and health care workers). Patients can also be referred to public clinics which can be found by calling **211** or checking www.maineflu.gov.

When a health care provider's **vaccine supply is sufficient**, Maine CDC recommends **offering vaccine to every patient at every visit, so long as there are no contraindications for receiving vaccine.** It is important to take advantage of this window of opportunity (declining disease burden and expanded vaccine supply) to encourage vaccine. Health care providers who have sufficient supplies and no longer need vaccine that is being shipped to them should contact their local Regional Resource Center or vaccine coordinator to arrange for redistribution.

Vaccine Return

The only vaccines that should be returned are those that **arrive non-viable** or appear to be **damaged during transit**. Providers with concerns about vaccine viability during transit from the McKesson Distributor should **call 877-836-7123 immediately upon receipt of the package**. Once a provider takes receipt of the vaccine as a usable product, it is that **provider's responsibility to ensure proper disposal of any damaged, expired, or un-used vaccine** unless it has been recalled. Health care providers who have sufficient supplies and no longer need vaccine they receive should contact their local Regional Resource Center or vaccine coordinator to arrange for redistribution.

Vaccinating Small Children

Due to national production delays and the recent recall of 0.25 mL pre-filled syringes, Maine CDC makes the following recommendations for vaccinating small children:

- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for all children ages 6 months to two years of age
- Use the nasal spray vaccine for healthy children ages two years and older, when available and appropriate
- Use the Sanofi or CSL multidose vial for children ages two and older who are not eligible to receive nasal spray vaccine, or when nasal spray is unavailable (Source: Maine CDC 12/30/09)

Public Vaccine Clinics: Many public clinics have been scheduled for January. For the most up to date information please see the clinic locator at: www.maineflu.gov. If you are running a public clinic, please make sure to document it on the Maine CDC clinic locator.

- Maine Medical Center will be hosting a public clinic on January 5 and 6, 2010, in the East Tower, Classroom 1 from noon to 8 pm. All outpatients, families of employees, and the general public may stop in and be vaccinated.
- Portland Public Health, in collaboration with local partners, will be sponsoring a series of public clinics for Cumberland County over the next several weeks. Please share the following information with providers and patients.

CLINIC DATES and LOCATIONS

Date	Time	Town	Place	Address
*01/04/10	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Westbrook	Westbrook Pointe Apartments	26 Prospect Street
01/05/10	12:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Portland	Maine Medical Center East Tower (Park in Congress St. Garage)	22 Bramhall Street
01/06/10	12:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Portland	Maine Medical Center East Tower (Park in Congress St. Garage)	22 Bramhall Street
*01/08/10	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Portland	The Root Cellar	94 Washington Ave.
*01/08/10	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	South Portland	South Portland Recreation Center	21 Nelson Road
*01/10/10	10:45 am – 1:00 pm	Portland	Sacred Heart Church	Mellon & Sherman Streets
*01/13/10	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Portland	West End Neighborhood Council Meeting, Reiche School	166 Brackett Street

Notes: * Clinic hosted by VNA Home Health & Hospice in partnership with Mercy Hospital.

(Table: MaineHealth, 12/31/09)

Stay Informed

General Public Call-In Number: **2-1-1** (8A-8P daily)

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.maine-flu.gov Press Releases: <http://bit.ly/2zSpJC>

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

Many Maine CDC posters and magnets are available for order online:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/flu-poster-orders.shtml>

Publisher

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