



Regional Resource Center for  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness

# Weekly H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Situation Update

September 24, 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, 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**

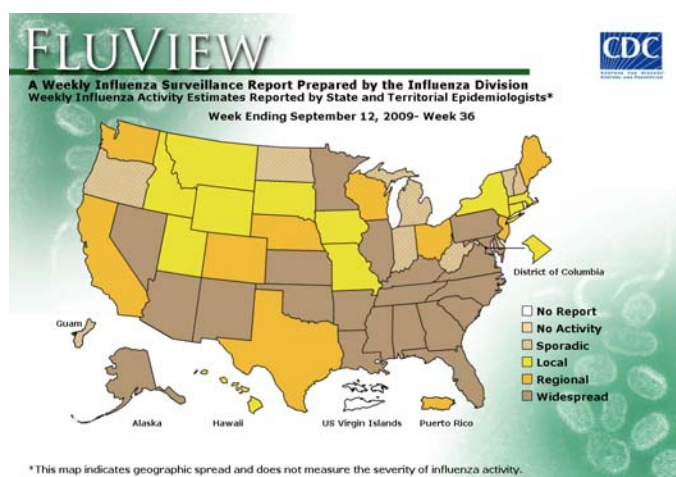
View all *SMRRC H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Situation Updates* (including archives) at: [www.smrrc.org](http://www.smrrc.org)

## Surveillance

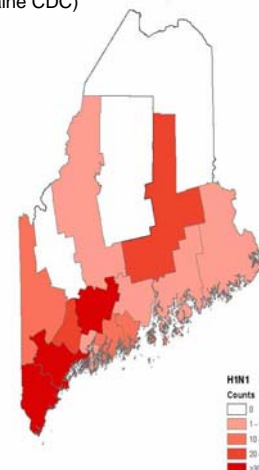
US CDC reports that key indicators show that flu activity continued to increase in the US during the week of Sept. 6-12. Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness are higher than what is expected during this time of year and have increased for five consecutive weeks. Total flu hospitalization rates are higher than expected for this time of year. As of Sept. 13, the World Health Organization reported at least 3,486 deaths from H1N1 and reports of H1N1 from more than 200 countries.

Maine has identified 388 cases of H1N1, which include 19 individuals requiring hospitalization and one individual who has died. The number of cases is only a barometer of community transmission, not of actual case counts, because not all people with infection are tested. Of Maine residents with confirmed H1N1, 64 percent have been under 25 years of age.

The outbreak at Bowdoin College appears to be subsiding. In addition, Maine saw two apparent outbreaks of influenza-like illness in Central Maine schools seeing absentee rates above 15%. (Source: Maine CDC/DHHS, 9/24/09)



Lab Confirmed H1N1, by County – Maine Residents and Out of State Visitors, 2009 (Maine CDC)



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

## Important Dates

Maine CDC will be holding two conference calls for all interested stakeholders on H1N1 vaccine efforts from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28 & Monday Oct. 5. The call-in number for both calls 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 with influenza decision-making roles within their organizations. **Registration is now OPEN:** [www.smrrc.org/Oct\\_7\\_Meeting.html](http://www.smrrc.org/Oct_7_Meeting.html)

## Updated News and Guidance

Like the popular one developed for School-based vaccine clinics, there is now a *Healthcare Provider Toolkit for H1N1 Vaccine Clinics* available on the Maine CDC website: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/h1n1/hc-providers/index.shtml)

This Toolkit contains a continually updated FAQ, H1N1 Provider Agreement, and loads of helpful information pertaining to the logistics and operation of influenza vaccine clinics (Billing, Vaccine Administration, Guidelines for Clinic Layout and Set-up, Maintenance/Storage/Transport of Vaccine, and a Clinic Readiness Checklist).

H1N1 influenza vaccine: H1N1 influenza vaccine will only be available through Maine CDC/DHHS in Maine, and will not be available for private purchase from manufacturers. Those interested in offering H1N1 vaccine must complete and submit the [H1N1 Provider Agreement](#) (even those that are already registered Maine Immunization Program providers and who have already completed paperwork to offer seasonal flu vaccine). Additional information can be found at [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov). H1N1 vaccine is expected to arrive in Maine in mid-October, with a possible small shipment in early October. During the first few weeks Maine CDC anticipates prioritizing distribution to settings serving high priority populations, such as schools, hospitals (for their health care workforce), clinicians serving pregnant women and children. Enough vaccine will then be available to all priority groups. Eventually, sufficient vaccine is expected for everyone. More information and guidance on registering to be an H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Distribution Site was distributed on 9/17/09 via HAN at: [www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=79438&an=2](http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=79438&an=2)

Completing the H1N1 Provider Agreement is your way of demonstrating interest. Like other states, Maine has been allocated a limited number of the number of distribution sites, so health care providers are urged to consolidate their orders. For instance, outpatient practices with multiple health care providers, or multiple small outpatient practices managed by a single organization, submit one registration form. Once the designated H1N1 vaccine providers are identified, Maine Immunization Program (MIP) will send a letter to the site that their agreement has been approved, communicating the assigned PIN, and including instructions for ordering and reporting obligations. In the mean time, it is very important that you prepare your priority population counts so that you are ready to place your order as soon as the ordering process in place.

There remains some confusion about the ability of Emergency Medical Services professionals (EMS) to administer vaccine. Those EMS professionals who have an Intermediate, Critical Care, or Paramedic EMS license are able to administer vaccine, so long as they comply with the training and other requirements in a recently-issued protocol by Maine EMS. These categories represent about 2,000 EMS professionals across Maine. Those in the First Responder or Basic EMT license categories are not able to administer vaccine, but are qualified to assist in clinic logistics. See the Maine EMS protocol ([PDF\\*](#))

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

### Additional important updates regarding Seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccines:

- **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Supply Delayed for 2009-2010.** The Maine CDC has recently learned from both the US CDC and the vaccine manufacturers that the scheduled delivery for the remaining doses of seasonal flu vaccine will ***not*** be as accelerated as originally anticipated, due to prioritization of H1N1 vaccine and other challenges. This delay is being felt across the country, and other states are in the process of postponing large scale seasonal flu vaccine clinics. Maine has received about 40% of our overall seasonal flu vaccine supply to date. Remaining doses are expected to become available over the next 4-6 weeks with the majority of doses still expected by the end of Oct and all doses delivered by early Nov.
- Timing of vaccine availability for the different types (seasonal and H1N1) may closely match virus circulation. **Almost all of the influenza viruses currently circulating are H1N1.** Seasonal influenza virus strains may not appear until later.
- **Good news!** Preliminary clinical studies released yesterday by US DHHS revealed that **children 10 – 18 may only need one dose of the H1N1 vaccine.** Previous results in adults ages 18 – 65 indicate this population will also only need one dose. Dosage results for younger children are pending: [www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2009/niaid-21.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2009/niaid-21.htm)
- Maine CDC recommends that all health care providers continue to vaccinate patients with seasonal influenza vaccine during routine visits and in scheduled clinics **as supply allows.**
- **School Located and Other Large Scale Flu Clinics:**

- Large public clinics and school located flu clinics that do not have their seasonal flu vaccine supply **should be delayed until mid-late October or into November unless there is sufficient vaccine on hand to meet the expected demand.** By late October, the CDC anticipates both vaccine supplies (seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine) will be sufficient to mount large clinic efforts.
- Anticipate holding clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine starting in mid-late October and early November as well. **Consider offering both seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine at these clinics.**

Simultaneous administration of inactivated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is permissible if different anatomic sites are used. However, simultaneous administration of live, attenuated vaccines against seasonal and H1N1 influenza viruses is not recommended, so they should be separated by 1 month.

On 9/17/09 US CDC updated its Interim Recommendations for Obstetric Health Care Providers: [www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/pregnancy/antiviral\\_messages.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/pregnancy/antiviral_messages.htm)

On 9/22/09 US CDC updated its Recommendations for the Use of Influenza Antiviral Medicines to provide additional guidance for clinicians in prescribing antiviral medicines for treatment and prevention (chemoprophylaxis) of influenza during the 2009-2010 flu season. These recommendations are intended to help clinicians prioritize use of antiviral drugs for treatment and prevention of influenza. [www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/recommendations.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/recommendations.htm) Additional Q&A about antiviral drug use available at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm)

On 9/24/09 US CDC updated its recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use to Reduce 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Transmission. This document is available at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.htm) This update is in accordance with the CDC Recommendations for the Amount of Time Persons with Influenza-Like Illness Should be Away from Others. *This document provides interim guidance and will be updated as needed.* It is available at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/exclusion.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/exclusion.htm)

On 9/23/09 a Letter to the Editor, Risk of Confusion in Dosing Tamiflu Oral Suspension in Children was published in the New England Journal of Medicine, urging the medical community to be made aware of "the serious potential for dosing errors in children prescribed Tamiflu (oseltamivir) oral suspension." Full text available at: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/NEJMc0908840v2.pdf>



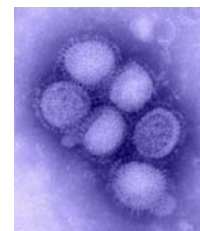
Healthcare workers who volunteer to provide vaccinations in school or community clinics must register with **MAINE RESPONDS** ([www.maineresponds.org](http://www.maineresponds.org)) to receive state liability protection. Maine Responds will verify the credentials of registered volunteers, and names of verified volunteers will be added to a list posted by Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at: [www.maine.gov/mema](http://www.maine.gov/mema) 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](mailto:walkea2@mmc.org).

## 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](mailto:flu.questions@maine.gov)  
 Maine CDC Medical/Clinical Influenza Questions: [disease.reporting@maine.gov](mailto:disease.reporting@maine.gov)  
 Maine CDC H1N1 Information: [www.maineclu.gov](http://www.maineclu.gov)  
 U.S. CDC H1N1 Information: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) and [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)



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