

September 21, 2009

# H1N1 Influenza A Update

New York Statewide School Health Services Center

## From the NYS Department of Health:

### Key findings from current flu monitoring systems for the week ending September 12, 2009, include:

- The overall level of flu activity is currently low and appears to be slightly increasing when compared to last week.
- The number of people hospitalized with flu is currently low and appears to be not changing when compared to last week.
- The number of people dying with flu is currently low and appears to be not changing when compared to last week.

For additional information please see their Influenza Surveillance page at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/2009-2010/>

## H1N1 Influenza News:

- The NYS Education Department and NYS Department of Health are working jointly on guidance and a toolkit for school vaccination clinics. This information will be available soon. We don't have specific answers at this time, but will post it to our H1N1 page and send a listserv note as soon as it is released.

## News from the Centers for Disease Control:

### Key Flu Indicators

Each week CDC analyzes information about influenza disease activity in the United States and publishes findings of key flu indicators in a report called FluView. During the week of September 6-12, 2009, a review of the key indicators found that influenza activity continued to increase in the United States compared to the prior weeks. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) are increasing nationally. 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 now. This is very unusual for this time of year.
- Total influenza hospitalization rates for adults and children are similar to or lower than seasonal influenza hospitalization rates depending on age group, but are higher than expected for this time of year.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was low and within the bounds of what is expected at this time of year.
- Twenty-one states are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Any reports of widespread influenza activity in September are very unusual.
- Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the viruses chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exceptions.

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## Latest Statistics on H1N1 Influenza A:

### H1N1 Influenza A Cases New York State Department of Health

Week ending	Flu A	Flu B	Flu, type unknown	Total
September 5	36	2	2	40
September 12	63	5	0	68

### Centers for Disease Control – National Data posted as of September 18, 2009

Cases Defined by	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Influenza and Pneumonia Syndrome*	3,534	291
Influenza Laboratory-Tests**	1,035	73
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>364</b>

\*Reports can be based on syndromic, admission or discharge data, or a combination of data elements that could include laboratory-confirmed and influenza-like illness hospitalizations.

\*\*Laboratory confirmation includes any positive influenza test (rapid influenza tests, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA, or culture), whether or not typing was done.

**World Health Organization – Pandemic Alert Level – Phase 6**