pH1N1 Flu Virus (Human Swine Influenza)
Information Resources
Current as of January 15, 2010 at 12 pm

Highlights

PHAC: Deaths Associated with H1N1 flu virus in Canada
Jan 7-14: 3 ; Cumulative: 418

CDC: Q and A: Fraud and Abuse Related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine

WHO: In Focus: Virtual Press Briefing, 14 January 2010

Literature

MMWR: Interim Results: Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccination Coverage - United States, Oct - Dec 2009


H/care Quarterly: Development of a critical care triage protocol for pandemic influenza: integrating ethics, evidence and effectiveness*

CID: Initial Response of Health Care Institutions to Emergence of H1N1 Influenza: Experiences, Obstacles, and Perceived Future Needs*


Dis Med PH Prep: Uncertainty and Operational Considerations in Mass Prophylaxis Workforce Planning*.

News

AP Report: Hockey team invites fans to take a shot

AP Report: Many Poles think no-vaccine policy was right

Journal Sentinel: Minority groups hit hard by H1N1

YLE Report: Permanent H1N1 lung damage reported

Clin Inf Dis: Mandatory flu shots for health workers deemed success

BMJ: WHO vaccine expert had conflict of interest, Danish newspaper claims
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Events

Updates by Jurisdiction

Lessons Learned
   Jurisdictions
   Literature

Ontario
   Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
   Ontario Agency for Health Promotion and Protection (OAHPP)

Canada
   Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

United States
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
   Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy
   Other US Sources

Europe
   United Kingdom’s Health Protection Agency (HPA)
   UK Department of Health
   European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)
   European Union

International
   World Health Organization (WHO)
   Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
   Australia and New Zealand

Other Resources
   pH1N1 Clinical Information
   Research Articles
   Travel Advisories
Events

Current / Upcoming

[FEB 3-5] International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses
February 3-5, 2010 | Amelia Island, Florida
Sponsor: International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases
Contact:
Gregory C. Gray, MD, MPH | Phone: (319) 384-5008 | gregory-gray@uiowa.edu

[ONGOING] "H1N1 and Pregnancy: Key Considerations for Vaccination and Management": Online learning program for health professionals
To access the program, go to:
www.mdBriefCase.com (for physicians)
www.rxBriefCase.com (for pharmacists)
www.AdvancingIn.com (for nurses and other healthcare professionals)

Archived

Join experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the former president of the American Medical Association answer your questions about the H1N1 virus and vaccine. Hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the show airs live on www.flu.gov.


[NOV 18] Clinical Laboratory Management Association: Review Epidemiology of Novel H1N1

[NOV 10] Assembly of First Nations and Health Canada to Co-host a Virtual Summit on H1N1 Preparedness November 10th, 2009

[ARCHIVED] COCA conference calls

[ARCHIVED] U.S. DHHS H1N1 Video Briefing archive

[ARCHIVED] Know what to do about the flu: webcast series from the U.S flu.gov
Lessons Learned

Jurisdictional Scan

Telemedicine used to handle H1N1 in Alberta

Geographic Information Systems and Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response

Los Angeles County Public Health Immunization Program. Influenza Clinic Procedures Manual 2009-10

Literature (duplicated from Research Articles section)

Factors contributing to suboptimal vaccination against influenza: results of a nationwide telephone survey of persons with cardiovascular disease.

Mandatory influenza immunisation of health-care workers.

H1N1 vaccination struggles against resistance and supply

Lessons from a pandemic

Swine flu: Crisis communicator.
Maher B. 463(7278): 150-152. Published online 13 January 2010 | doi:10.1038/463150a.

Infection control of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in hospitals — a logistic challenge

Observations on Past Influenza Pandemics*
Barry JM. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be82c5v1

Uncertainty and Operational Considerations in Mass Prophylaxis Workforce Planning*.
Hupert N. et al. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be9c39v1

Point-of-Care Testing for Pandemic Influenza and Biothreats*.
Louie RF et al. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be6dc4v1

Emergency Legal Preparedness Among Select US Local Governments.*
Anderson ED, HodgeJG. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be6e92v1
Hospital and the Novel H1N1 Outbreak: The Mouse That Roared?*
Hanfling D, Hick JL. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. 2009; 0: DMP.0b013e3181bf2483v1

Mass Critical Care: Pediatric Considerations in Extending and Rationing Care in Public Health Emergencies.*
Kanter RK, Cooper A. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. 2009; 0: DMP.0b013e3181be6844v1

Preventing the Soldiers of Health Care From Becoming Victims on the Pandemic Battlefield: Respirators or Surgical Masks as the Armor of Choice*
Radonovich LJ et al. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0: DMP.0b013e3181be830cv1


Are Belgian Senior Medical Students Ready to Deliver Basic Medical Care in Case of a H5N1 Pandemic?*

H1N1: a Mexican perspective.*


Pandemic Influenza: Antiviral Preparedness and Health Care Workers.*
Schneider RB, Benitez JG, D'Angelo A, Tyo K. Disaster Med Public Health Prep. 2010 Jan 7. [Epub ahead of print]

Do Pandemic Preparedness Planning Systems Ignore Critical Community- and Local-Level Operational Challenges?*

Management of infectious disease outbreak: lessons learnt from the H1N1 outbreak.

Responding to H1N1 in Health Care Institutions: Is the Glass Half Full or Half Empty?
Initial Response of Health Care Institutions to Emergence of H1N1 Influenza: Experiences, Obstacles, and Perceived Future Needs.

Prevention of nosocomial transmission of swine-origin pandemic influenza virus A/H1N1 by infection control bundle.

Development of a critical care triage protocol for pandemic influenza: integrating ethics, evidence and effectiveness.*

Pros and cons of estimating the reproduction number from early epidemic growth rate of influenza A (H1N1) 2009.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Ontario Flu Bulletin
Note: The Influenza Bulletin provides information based on the surveillance period from December 20, 2009 to January 2, 2010. Case counts from the previous week are submitted to the ministry by public health units every Tuesday. For the surveillance period of December 20, 2009 to January 2, 2010:
- Influenza activity in Ontario was lower compared to the previous reporting period (Dec. 13 to Dec. 19, 2009).
- Slightly more patients reporting influenza-like symptoms consulted sentinel physicians during this two week surveillance period than the previous week.
- The rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) in patients seen by sentinel physicians is lower than what is expected based on the average rate at this time of year for past seasons.
- In each of the weeks of December 20 to December 26 and December 27 to January 2, no health units reported widespread or localized influenza activity, five reported sporadic influenza activity and 27 reported no influenza activity.
- There are 8,746 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus reported through the integrated Public Health System (iPHIS).
For additional information, please see this week's flu bulletin.

Previous MOHLTC updates and news conference video footage

Important Health Notices / Avis de santé important
None on H1N1 since Nov 13, 2009.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Laboratory
Pandemic H1N1 Surveillance Report January 11th
Weekly Synthesis of Surveillance Information, Literature & Government Updates (Week ending Jan 8, 2010)

Swine influenza outbreak page

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

PHAC issues national updates on H1N1-associated deaths on Thursdays at 4 pm, and will report regularly on any unusual outbreaks or clusters of illness.

Deaths Associated with H1N1 flu virus in Canada
Jan 7 – Jan 14, 2010: 3 Cumulative: 418

Young Adults and the H1N1 Flu Vaccine : Vaccine Myths and Facts

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and US Department of Health and Human Services

UPDATE: Influenza and Pneumonia-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30, 2009 to January 9, 2010
Overall flu activity in the United States decreased during the week of January 3-9, 2010, as reported in FluView. Though flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal flu viruses, may rise and fall, it is expected to continue for several more months. Supply and availability of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine have increased dramatically, CDC is now encouraging everyone who has been patiently waiting to receive the 2009 H1N1 vaccine to get vaccinated at this time

NEW: Q and A: Fraud and Abuse Related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine
This document provides information to state/local immunization programs regarding options for reporting certain criminal, fraud and abuse matters relating to the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine and ancillary supplies.

AUDIO: 30 second Radio-ready PSA - Vaccinate Against H1N1 Flu
If you think 2009 H1N1 flu can't affect you, your family, or your friends - think again.

AUDIO: 30 second Radio-ready PSA - National Influenza Vaccination Week

NEW: Open Letter to the American People about the H1N1 Flu Vaccine
In an Open Letter to the American People, over thirty major health care provider and public health organizations encouraged Americans to get the H1N1 vaccine. This letter emphasizes that the H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect against the flu.

Previous CDC documents and updates
Other US Sources

[JAN 14] January 14: Young Adults Flu Vaccination Day
National Influenza Vaccination Week continues with a focus on the importance of young adults getting vaccinated against the H1N1 flu. Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius will visit Hunter College in New York City for a roundtable discussion with students and faculty about the H1N1 flu. Secretary Sebelius will also announce a new Facebook application called, "I'm a Flu Fighter" that allows users to tell their friends that they received the flu vaccination and urge others to do the same.

[JAN 12] Presidential Proclamation: National Influenza Vaccination Week
Every American has a role to play in fighting the H1N1 flu.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy

[JAN 14] CDC warns about vaccine-related fraud
Questions and answers about fraud and abuse related to H1N1 vaccine were posted online yesterday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The information is designed to help state and local immunization programs report abuses, such as charging for the vaccine (which is provided free by the federal government, though providers can charge for administering it) or selling the vaccine or ancillary supplies provided by the government. [CDC question-and-answer bulletin]

China urges Lunar New Year precautions
To limit the spread of H1N1 during the upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations, China's health ministry is urging people at risk for H1N1 complications to get vaccinated and avoid using public transportation during the holidays, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported today. The ministry specifically mentioned pregnant women, children, the elderly, obese people, and those with chronic diseases. The travel period lasts from Jan 30 to Mar 10, with Lunar New Year's Day on Feb 14. [Jan 14 AFP story]

Permanent H1N1 lung damage reported
Some H1N1 patients in Finland suffered permanent lung damage from their infections, according to a Finnish Broadcasting Corp. (YLE) report. The patients had viral pneumonia, which caused their lungs to fill with fluid and left them with fibrosis after they recovered. At Kuopio University Hospital, all patients who were in the pulmonary ward for H1N1 will be brought back for further testing. The story did not specify how many patients suffered permanent damage. [Jan 14 YLE report]

Drive-through clinics proposed for triage
A drive-through clinic for patient triage may be a useful method to reduce emergency-room crowding and disease spread during a flu pandemic, according to Stanford University physicians. The researchers set up a simulated drive-through clinic in a parking ramp and used charts from real patients who had flu-like illness to create patient scenarios. Participating physicians accurately identified patients who were admitted and discharged. The median length of stay was 26 minutes. [Annals of Emergency Medicine report]

[JAN 13] Japan clears IV antiviral peramivir
Japan has approved peramivir, an intravenous neuraminidase inhibitor, for the treatment of adults with influenza, Shionogi announced today. Shionogi has licensed
the drug from US-based BioCryst. Japan is the first country to approve peramivir, though in October the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted it an emergency use authorization. Shionogi said it finished a clinical trial of the drug in children and intends to file an application for pediatric use within the next fiscal year. [Jan 13 Shionogi press release]

**Germany, Serbia scale back vaccine orders**
GlaxoSmithKline yesterday confirmed that the German government is trimming its H1N1 vaccine order by 30%, the Associated Press (AP) reported. Other governments are reducing their vaccine orders because they have surpluses owing to falling public demand and findings that one dose, rather than two, is enough to protect most people against the virus. In a related development, Serbia said yesterday it would stop importing vaccine and reassess its needs in February, BalkanInsight news reported. [Jan 12 AP story]

**Georgia to get donated vaccine from WHO**
Public health officials in Georgia said the World Health Organization (WHO) will provide the country with 400,000 pandemic vaccine doses to immunize high-risk groups, Trend News, a central Asian news agency, reported. Groups slated to receive the first doses include pregnant women, healthcare workers, and those with weakened immunity and chronic conditions. Pandemic flu activity is starting to decline in Georgia, but officials are warning that another wave of illnesses could occur. [Jan 12 Trend News story]

**UK leader defends government's H1N1 response**
British Health Secretary Andy Burnham defended the government's response to the H1N1 pandemic from Labour Party charges that leaders wasted money and distorted the health system's priorities over an exaggerated threat, the Press Association reported. Burnham said he would “make no apology” for taking necessary steps to protect the public. He cited the WHO's pandemic declaration and said the "exceptional spike in flu cases" in Britain last summer triggered strong public concern. [Jan 12 Press Association report]

**China orders more H1N1 vaccine**
China has ordered more pandemic H1N1 vaccine from Sinovac Biotech Ltd., the company announced today. The order is for 8.57 million doses and brings the total bought by the government from Sinovac to 20.05 million doses, of which 10.23 million have been delivered. The order calls for the company to deliver 2.33 million doses by Mar 15 and to stockpile the rest in its own warehouse, officials said. [Jan 13 Sinovac press release]

**Mexico has fewer than half of its doses**
Mexico, site of the world’s first pandemic H1N1 cases, has received fewer than half of the 30 million doses of vaccine it ordered in 2009, Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said yesterday, according to the AP. He said Mexico has struggled to get the vaccine because it has to import it. So far the country has obtained 12 million doses, including a loan of 5 million from Canada. Cordova said the government hopes to vaccinate 24 million people by March. [Jan 12 AP report]

**Many Poles think no-vaccine policy was right**
Many people in Poland think their government's decision not to buy H1N1 vaccine has been vindicated by events, as the pandemic has peaked in much of Europe and several countries that stockpiled vaccine have many doses left over, according to an AP report from Warsaw. Doctors in Poland are deeply divided on the matter, with
some arguing that people should have the right to be vaccinated if they want to. [Jan 13 AP story]

WHO to field questions on pandemic response
In response to some European officials who have questioned its response to the flu pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today it will order an independent review, but probably not until after the pandemic is over, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported. A WHO spokeswoman said its executive board will address questions on the topic at its Jan 18 meeting. Some members of the Council of Europe have charged that vaccine companies pressured the WHO and have called for an investigation. [Jan 12 AFP story]

Hospitals get mixed grades on H1N1 response
In a survey of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, 60% of the 323 respondents said their hospitals were well prepared for the H1N1 pandemic, but 51% said other infection-prevention activities were neglected during the crisis, according to a report in Clinical Infectious Diseases. About 31% of respondents reported shortages of antiviral drugs, and 30% said personal stockpiling of antivirals occurred at their hospitals. Most endorsed mandatory flu shots for health workers. [Jan 11 Clin Infect Dis abstract]

Mandatory flu shots for health workers deemed success
Mandatory flu vaccination of staff has been successful at BJC HealthCare, a St. Louis health group with 26,000 workers, according to a Clinical Infectious Diseases study. After the requirement was set in 2008, 98.4% of workers were vaccinated. Medical exemptions were granted to 1.2% of workers and religious exemptions to 0.3%. Only eight workers were not vaccinated and not exempted. Fewer employees sought medical or religious exemptions than had declined the vaccine the year before. [Jan 11 Clin Infect Dis abstract]

A third of UK health workers now vaccinated
Only about a third of frontline National Health Service workers in England have received H1N1 vaccine, according to a report in the Nursing Times newsletter. As of December, 343,000 of about 1 million staff members had been vaccinated, the Department of Health reported. A department spokeswoman said the number of healthcare workers who received the pandemic vaccine is about twice the number who have received the seasonal vaccine. [Jan 12 Nursing Times report]

VaxInnate licenses recombinant H1N1 vaccine to Indian firm
VaxInnate Corp. of Cranbury, N.J., announced today that it has licensed its recombinant H1N1 vaccine to Biological E. Limited, an Indian company, and will help the firm test and market the vaccine in India. Clinical development of the vaccine there will start early this year, and it could become available for emergency use after completion of clinical trials. Biological E. will be able to make the vaccine—produced in a bacterial expression system—in its existing facilities, officials said. [Jan 12 VaxInnate press release]

New HHS PSAs urge vaccination for minorities
The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) held two press briefings today to launch new public service announcement (PSA) campaigns to urge African-Americans, American Indians, and Alaska natives to be vaccinated against H1N1. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Surgeon General Regina Benjamin conducted the briefings along with other officials. The briefings were part of National Influenza Vaccination Week activities. [HHS flu.gov page with access to PSAs]
**FDA offers guidance on drug production in emergencies**

In an effort to maintain the nation's supply of drugs and other medical products in the event of a pandemic or other emergency, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued draft guidance to help pharmaceutical companies plan for high absenteeism rates. It focuses on "medically necessary products" such as antivirals and details what the FDA could do to help protect the supply. The guidance is also aimed at companies that make the raw materials and components used in the products. [Jan 2010 FDA draft guidance]

**[JAN 11] Groups encourage H1N1 vaccination**

Thirty-seven US health groups today posted an open letter to Americans urging them to get an H1N1 vaccine. The letter, signed by leaders of the AMA, Red Cross, APIC, ASTHO, IDSA, and other physician, nurse, hospital, and other healthcare groups, says, "The H1N1 flu vaccine is safe, effective, and the best way to protect yourself and your family from the H1N1 flu." [Jan 11 letter on CDC site]

**Feds kick off flu vaccination week**

National Influenza Vaccination Week launched yesterday with US Health and Human Services (HHS) director Kathleen Sebelius visiting a Baptist church in Washington, DC, in an effort to rally faith communities behind immunization efforts. The event is designed to raise awareness of flu complications and promote post-holiday vaccination. Officials are highlighting different risk groups each day of the week, with today's messages aimed at healthcare workers and the general public. [Jan 8 HHS press release]

**Ohio sees low vaccine uptake in risk groups**

Pandemic flu vaccine uptake in Ohio's high-risk groups has been low, according to a report in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Only 20% of those at high risk for flu complications had been vaccinated through the end of the December, according to data from public records. For example, fewer than 2 in 10 of the state's pregnant women had gotten their dose. As of Dec 30 the state had distributed 4 million doses and administered 1 million. [Jan 10 Plain Dealer report]

**Aid group says flu spreading in North Korea**

H1N1 flu is continuing to spread in Pyongyang, North Korea, prompting the closure of day care centers and kindergartens, an aid group called Good Friends reported on the UN-sponsored ReliefWeb site. Quoting an unnamed official, the report said some children have died and severe winter weather has worsened the situation. The group also said flu medications sent from South Korea have been used mainly in Pyongyang, with little reaching the provinces, where the virus is also spreading. [Jan 9 Good Friends report]

**European group to air H1N1 vaccine controversy**

Later this month the Council of Europe will debate charges raised by one of its health officials that vaccine makers manipulated governments to buy stockpiles of pandemic vaccine, the London-based Guardian reported today. Weak demand for the vaccine amid waning flu activity and the need for just one dose have left many countries with surpluses. However, some experts warn another wave of infections could sweep the globe, with more months remaining in the Northern Hemisphere's flu season. [Jan 11 Guardian story]

**Azerbaijan receives donated vaccine**

Azerbaijan has received its first shipment of donated pandemic vaccine, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a press release. It will receive a total of 860,000
The inactivated adjuvanted vaccine made by Glaxo will go to healthcare workers, pregnant women, people with chronic lung conditions, and children ages 14 to 17. Meanwhile, the WHO sent Nepal five sets of intensive care equipment to help treat severely ill H1N1 patients, Himalayan News Service reported yesterday. [Jan 8 WHO press release]

Mongolia is first country to get donated vaccine
Mongolia yesterday became the first developing country to receive donated doses of H1N1 vaccine from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Voice of America reported. The first 35 countries on the list to receive vaccine should all get supplies within the next month, WHO spokeswoman Nyka Alexander told VOA. Azerbaijan and Afghanistan are expected to receive doses within days. The WHO has received pledges for 190 million doses from 14 countries. [Jan 7 VOA report]

Minority groups hit hard by H1N1
African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian residents of Wisconsin were hospitalized for H1N1 flu at much higher rates than whites, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. Data from Milwaukee and the state show hospitalization rates for whites of 11 to 14 per 100,000, compared with 28 to 38 per 100,000 for blacks, 30 to 32 per 100,000 for Hispanics, and 35 per 100,000 for American Indians. [Jan 7 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story]

UK considering unloading surplus vaccine
The British government is looking at ways to "offload" millions of doses of H1N1 vaccine because a third wave of cases is deemed unlikely, the BBC News reported today. Options include selling the surplus doses or giving them to poor countries, but a stockpile will be kept. The government bought 60 million doses from GlaxoSmithKline and 30 million from Baxter. So far, 23.9 million doses of GSK vaccine and 5 million doses of Baxter vaccine have been delivered. [Jan 8 BBC News report]

China offers free flu shots for holiday
China's Ministry of Health said today that the government will fund free H1N1 flu vaccinations for all children in the country who are less than 3 years old. The central government made the move in anticipation of Lunar New Year celebrations, when millions of people travel to visit relatives. China has vaccinated 51.4 million residents so far. [Jan 8 Agence France-Presse story]

Hockey team invites fans to take a shot
The Missouri Mavericks, a minor league hockey team in Independence, Mo., are offering a special incentive for fans to attend their game tomorrow: free H1N1 flu shots. The team plans to set up a vaccination table for their game with the Arizona Sundogs, the Associated Press reported. Anyone wanting the immunization must be older than 18 or be accompanied by a parent or guardian. [Jan 8 AP report]

Health Protection Agency (UK)
[Jan 15] Weekly Epidemiological Update: 08 January 2010 (Week 1)
NOTE: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) will no longer be producing a weekly pandemic flu media update. Should the position change in relation to the course of the pandemic then the updates will be resumed.

Swine Influenza page

Department of Health (UK)

DH Pandemic Flu site

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Daily update

JAN 15
- A total of 2,271 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 11,978 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date.
- Selected Scientific Publications (08TH Jan 2010 - 14TH Jan 2010) published.

JAN 14
- A total of 2,233 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 11,927 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date.

JAN 13
- A total of 2,203 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 11,821 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date.

JAN 12
- US and Canada epidemiological updates included;
- A total of 2,185 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 11,753 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date.

JAN 11
- A total of 2,152 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 11,685 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date;
- Weekly surveillance overview indicates stable or decreasing clinical activity in Europe.

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview : Main surveillance developments in week 53/2009 (28 December—03 January)

Maps, surveillance summaries and previous ECDC updates

European Union

European Union Influenza H1N1 page
Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)

[Jan 11] Regional Update. Pandemic (H1N1) 2010 (Jan 11)
- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity continued to decrease and is lower than expected in some areas
- In the Caribbean, all countries reported unchanged and decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease
- Central American countries reported decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease
- South American countries reported mostly decreasing or unchanged trends of acute respiratory disease, except Peru, which reported an increasing trend
- A median of 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- 136 new confirmed deaths in 7 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,016 cumulative confirmed deaths

[ARCHIVED] PAHO Influenza A (H1N1) Portal

Australia and New Zealand

All jurisdictions in Australia have ceased daily Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 data reporting.

- As at 1 January 2010, there have been 37,553 confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and 191 deaths reported in Australia.
- National influenza activity remains low and steady.
- Influenza-like illness (ILI) presentation rates to General Practitioners at a national level were below the baseline levels reached at the end of the 2007 and 2008 influenza seasons.
- ILI presentations to emergency departments (EDs) remained steady, and slightly above background levels.
- Enquiries to the National Health Call Centre Network (NHCCN) regarding ILI remained stable and were at low levels.
- Absenteeism rates remained similar to levels seen at the same time in 2007 and 2008.

[Jan 14] New Zealand Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) 09 Swine Flu - Update 167
Calls to Healthline and GP consultations for influenza-like illness are low, at about the levels usual for this time of year. The Ministry of Health is monitoring for any early signs of an upswing in influenza - at the moment the rates of pandemic influenza remain at very low levels

[ARCHIVED] New Zealand’s H1N1 page

[ARCHIVED] Australia’s H1N1 Update Bulletins

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO no longer issues the global tables showing the numbers of confirmed cases for all countries. Regular updates describing the situation in the newly affected countries are provided.

[Jan 15] Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 83
In focus: virtual press briefing, 14 January 2010
Dr Keiji Fukuda, Special Adviser to the Director-General on Pandemic Influenza, briefs the media on pandemic influenza activity and clarifies some misconceptions in the news.
Listen to Dr Fukuda [mp3 24.0Mb]
Read the transcript [pdf 54kb]

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 82

WHO H1N1 Guidance Documents
Older WHO Updates

International Society for Infectious Diseases

ProMed Posting: Comments re: Influenza pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (115): USA (WV), repeat infection
Out correspondents suggest 2 explanations for this case of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus reinfection in a mother and son. Dr Lenoir’s observations suggest that reinfection may on occasion be a consequence of transient immune suppression, whereas Professor Tang cites evidence that reinfection may occur more frequently than currently supposed.

pH1N1 Clinical Information

Due to Pandemic H1N1 Influenza and concerns about the 2009/2010 flu season, the EBSCO Publishing Medical and Nursing editors of DynaMed™, Nursing Reference Center™ (NRC) and Patient Education Reference Center™ (PERC) have made key influenza information from these resources freely available to health care providers worldwide. Contact your library for access.

Research Articles (1 week backfile)
What’s new today, plus a one week backfile. Articles with an asterisk (*) indicate that a subscription is required to view the full text. Contact your library for access to full text articles.

Interim Results: Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccination Coverage --- United States, October--December 2009

Potential flu pandemic must safeguard the rights of people.
Administration of neuraminidase inhibitors for the treatment of Japanese patients infected with the novel influenza A (H1N1).

Quantifying the risk of pandemic influenza in pregnancy and Indigenous people in Australia in 2009.

Editorial: H1N1: now entering the recrimination phase

Influenza A Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Virus Infection in Domestic Cat
Sponseller BA et al. Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Mar; [Epub ahead of print]

Factors contributing to suboptimal vaccination against influenza: results of a nationwide telephone survey of persons with cardiovascular disease.

Update on the 2009 pandemic influenza A H1N1 in children.*

Best Cases from the AFIP: Fatal 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Infection, Complicated by Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and Pulmonary Interstitial Emphysema.

Interim guidance on infection control measures for 2009 H1N1 influenza in healthcare settings, including protection of healthcare personnel.*


Development of reverse transcription-loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus as a novel molecular based testing for pandemic influenza even in resource limited settings.

Mandatory influenza immunisation of health-care workers.

H1N1 vaccination struggles against resistance and supply

Lessons from a pandemic
Swine flu: Crisis communicator.
Maher B. 463(7278): 150-152. Published online 13 January 2010 | doi:10.1038/463150a.

Comparative Efficacy of Influenza Vaccines

Reduced risk of hospitalization associated with influenza vaccination in Canada.

Community-Acquired Pneumonia Due to Pandemic A(H1N1)2009 Influenzavirus and Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Co-Infection.

Infection control of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in hospitals — a logistic challenge

Oseltamivir-resistant pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in a severely ill patient: the first Australian case
Speers DJ et al. eMJA Rapid Online Publication — 11 January 2010.

Observations on Past Influenza Pandemics*
Barry JM. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be82c5v1

Uncertainty and Operational Considerations in Mass Prophylaxis Workforce Planning*.
Hupert N, et al. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be9c39v1

Point-of-Care Testing for Pandemic Influenza and Biothreats.*
Louie RF et al. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be6dc4v1

Emergency Legal Preparedness Among Select US Local Governments.*
Anderson ED, HodgeJG. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.2009; 0:
DMP.0b013e3181be6e92v1

Hospital and the Novel H1N1 Outbreak: The Mouse That Roared?*
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[OCT 26]  Hajj Pilgrims: Recommendations for travel