Contents

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

Other Resources
pH1N1 Clinical Information
Research Articles
Travel Advisories
Events

Current / Upcoming

[JUN 21-22] **H1N1: The world responds to a 21st century pandemic** (London, UK)
This international conference will bring together scientists, academics and public health professionals to examine what we have learned since the appearance of H1N1 in April 2009, and how the knowledge gained from the global effort can be used in preparing for future pandemic response.

[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

[FEB 17] **GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES: Emerging issues of global public health importance: SARS: Learning from an Epidemic of Fear**
In the opening presentation of this new seminar series, health psychologist Professor George Bishop describes his studies of how ordinary people respond to illness threats. He focuses particularly on the impact of SARS in Singapore, public responses to the epidemic, and the lessons learned. Dr Cathy Roth, a WHO expert on the disease, explains the role of WHO in leading the struggle to contain this unprecedented threat.

[FEB 3-5] **International Symposium on Neglected Influenza Viruses**

[DEC 16] **Topic: A Special Flu.Gov Webcast for Health Care Providers**
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 30] **Webcast: Planning for a Pandemic - Can History Inform Action?**

[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

Critical illness due to 2009 A/H1N1 influenza in pregnant and postpartum women: population based cohort study
ANZIC Influenza Investigators; Australasian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System. BMJ. 2010 Mar 18;340:c1279. doi:10.1136/bmj.c1279

Morbid Obesity as a Risk Factor for Hospitalization and Death Due to 2009 Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1) Disease.

Acute Kidney Injury in Critically Ill Patients Infected With 2009 Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1): Report From a Canadian Province

Following a rural recipe. South Dakota's H1N1 strategy might provide pandemic blueprint.*

Self-reported anticipated compliance with physician advice to stay home during pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Results from the 2009 Queensland Social Survey.

Characterizing the initial diffusion pattern of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 using surveillance data.

WHO Knows Best? National and International Responses to Pandemic Threats and the "Lessons" of 1976.*

Preliminary estimation of risk factors for admission to intensive care units and for death in patients infected with A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus, France, 2009-2010.

Evolutionary pattern of pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 virus in the late phases of the 2009 pandemic.

Identification of influenza A pandemic (H1N1) 2009 variants during the first 2009 influenza outbreak in Mexico City.*

Research findings from nonpharmaceutical intervention studies for pandemic influenza and current gaps in the research.*
University life and pandemic influenza: Attitudes and intended behaviour of staff and students towards pandemic (H1N1) 2009*

Cost-effectiveness of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine among healthcare workers during an influenza pandemic.

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
Ontario Influenza Bulletin (Week 9: Feb 28–Mar 6)
[ARCHIVED] Previous MOHLTC updates and news conference video footage

Important Health Notices / Avis de santé important
No IHNs related to H1N1 since Nov 13, 2009.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)
No items of interest this week.
[ARCHIVED] Swine influenza outbreak page

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
No items of interest this week.
[ARCHIVED] Previous PHAC documents and updates

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) & US Department of Health and Human Services
Weekly FluView Map and Surveillance Report for Week Ending March 13, 2010
During week 10 (March 7-13, 2010), influenza activity remained at approximately the same levels as last week in the U.S. 200 (5.6%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza.

Influenza and Pneumonia-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30, 2009 to March 13, 2010
FluView reports that for the week of March 7-13, 2010, flu activity in the United States was relatively low, with most flu continuing to be caused by 2009 H1N1. Flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal flu viruses, may rise and fall, but is expected to continue for weeks. It’s possible that the United States could experience another wave of flu activity caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal influenza.
Question & Answer: Morbid Obesity as a Risk Factor for Hospitalization and Death due to 2009 H1N1
This document provides updated information on obesity and morbid obesity as risk factors for serious 2009 H1N1-related complications based on findings from recent studies.

2009 H1N1 Flu International Situation Update
This report provides an update to the international situation as of March 12, 2010. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to report updated 2009 H1N1 flu-associated laboratory-confirmed cases and deaths on its Web page.

[ARCHIVED] Previous CDC documents and updates

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy

Many lower-risk people got first H1N1 shots (Mar 18)
An investigation by the Associated Press using government documents tendered under the Freedom of Information Act reveals that, though the first wave of H1N1 shots were designated for high-risk groups, many were diverted to lower-risk healthy adults in firms, refineries, jails, and other sites. There is no complete record of where or to whom the vaccine was administered, the wire service said.

Hong Kong records seasonal, H1N1 flu rise (Mar 18)
Hong Kong's Centre for Health Protection is detecting rising numbers of flu cases during its traditional flu-season peak, with half the isolates turning out to be H1N1 pandemic flu. The remainder of isolates are influenza B, not other seasonal influenza A strains. The centre said Thursday that it recorded 268 new flu cases last week, compared with 177 the week before, and added that visits to doctors for flu-like illnesses are rising.

Texas: Thousands of flu shots may be thrown out (Mar 18)
The Tarrant County, Texas, heath department, which serves Fort Worth, is rushing to administer its remaining 20,000 H1N1 flu vaccine doses before they expire. KSDK-TV reported that the department was administering 300 shots per day during the winter but that demand has dropped by 80%.

Severe obesity raises risk of poor H1N1 outcome (Mar 17)
Severe obesity makes it almost five times more likely that adults infected with the H1N1 pandemic influenza virus will be ill enough to be hospitalized, and also more likely that they will die under certain conditions, according to new research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The finding quantifies for the first time the frequent observation, made during clinical care and confirmed by surveillance data, that obesity has played a greater-than-expected role in H1N1 illnesses and deaths. Writing in the online medical journal Public Library of Science ONE (PLoS ONE), the researchers say that obesity appears to play such a powerful role that it exerts an effect independent of any underlying chronic conditions that patients may have.

H1N1 vaccine could go unused in Australia (Mar 17)
 Australians are opting for newly available, broader seasonal flu vaccine rather than the monovalent H1N1 flu vaccine offered free of charge by the government. About 21 million doses of the latter were purchased; about 7 million have been distributed, and 2.1 million have been committed to developing countries. The vaccine has a shelf life of 12 months, raising concern that many doses will go to waste. H1N1 flu has hospitalized close to 5,000 Australians, with at least 190 deaths so far.

Rwanda reports H1N1 contained (Mar 17)
Most cases of flu now being reported in Rwanda are of the seasonal variety, including type B, which is common in the rainy season, according to health officials there. The number of H1N1 cases is decreasing significantly, and samples are no longer being sent routinely for laboratory diagnosis. Preventive measures, such as hand washing and covering coughs, continue to be encouraged. Rwanda saw its first case of H1N1 last October, and total cases number nearly 400, with no reported deaths.

**Pandemic H1N1 mutation in India resembles Dutch findings** (Mar 16)
Researchers from India's National Institute of Virology (NIV) yesterday announced that they detected a small mutation in pandemic H1N1 virus in samples from three patients, fueling speculation that it may be the same change that surfaced in two Dutch patients last fall. Experts say if the two mutations are the same it doesn't appear to have much clinical significance, though the development is worth monitoring, because the change could theoretically enhance viral replication and virulence.

**Kentucky seeks to prevent flu absences from hurting school aid** (Mar 16)
Kentucky's Senate unanimously approved a measure yesterday to protect schools from funding cuts due to student absenteeism during the flu pandemic, the Huntington, W.V., Herald-Dispatch reported. The bill would allow schools to choose their highest attendance averages from the last 3 years to help determine state aid allocations. Some districts that had high absence rates were in danger of losing some state funding. The measure now goes to House lawmakers.

**Firm gets DARPA funds for plant-based vaccine** (Mar 16)
Fraunhofer USA's Center for Molecular Biotechnology announced today that it received a $4.4 million award from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop a pandemic H1N1 vaccine using its plant-based recombinant technology. The award, Fraunhofer's third from DARPA, allows the vaccine to enter phase 1 trials. The technology is designed to enable a more rapid response to military and civilian disease threats. Fraunhofer opened a new production facility in late 2009.

**Canada ponders multiple pandemic vaccine suppliers** (Mar 16)
Canadian officials yesterday said they plan to move to a multiple-source supplier for pandemic vaccines. For the past 10 years the nation has relied on only GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), which has a plant in Canada, for pandemic vaccine, as well as much of its seasonal vaccine. During the H1N1 pandemic, GSK's Quebec plant experienced production delays. According to yesterday's notice, officials are considering "a second pandemic supply contract, if feasible and of demonstrated value to Canada."

**Students main H1N1 disseminators in Hong Kong** (Mar 12)
A study of the first 3 months of pandemic H1N1 flu's spread in Hong Kong using routinely collected surveillance data showed that the disease diffused relatively slowly from six initial foci, suggesting close person-to-person rather than airborne spread, and that students were the major disseminators of infection. All cases from May through July 2009 were included in the study. Cases were georeferenced and the data analyzed by SatScan to characterize space-time clustering.

**CDC: 59 million have contracted pandemic flu** (Mar 12)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated numbers of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths for the H1N1 pandemic, new estimates that add an additional month of statistics to the agency's calculations but only slightly increase the overall toll. Between the flu strain's first appearance in April 2009 and Feb 13 of this year, the agency said Friday, about 59 million Americans contracted H1N1; about 265,000 were hospitalized for that flu; and about 12,000 died as a result of it.

**WHO: Influenza B gaining foothold in more countries** (Mar 12)
Though pandemic flu is circulating at low levels in many parts of the world, Thailand and some West African nations are reporting increased activity, and the virus is being edged out by influenza B in China and other Asian regions, with signs of westward spread, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today.

**HHS preparing to handle claims of harm from H1N1 vaccine** (Mar 12)

While the pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine seems to be just as safe as seasonal flu vaccines, the federal government has been getting some letters from people saying they plan to seek compensation for injuries caused by the injection, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As of yesterday, HHS had received letters from 106 people saying they plan to submit claims for compensation benefits because of problems related to the vaccine, according to David Bowman, a spokesman for HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

[ARCHIVED]  [Current overview and older updates from CIDRAP](#)

**Other US Sources**

*No items of interest this week.*

**Health Protection Agency (UK)**

**HPA Weekly National Influenza Report: 18 Mar 2010**

- Pandemic influenza activity is low and decreasing or stabilised across the UK.
- A decrease in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections has been observed recently, though GP consultation rates for acute bronchitis have increased slightly from week 09 to 10.
- The main influenza virus circulating in the UK continues to be the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 strain, with few influenza H1 (non-pandemic), H3 and B viruses detected. Forty of 5,629 pandemic viruses tested have been confirmed to carry a mutation which confers resistance to the antiviral drug oseltamivir; fifteen are phenotypically resistant to the drug but retain sensitivity to zanamivir.
- The weekly number of pandemic influenza cases reported as admitted to hospital has decreased recently. There have been 457 deaths reported due to pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the UK.
- The UK pandemic influenza vaccination programme continues for people at high risk for severe disease, health-care workers and healthy children aged between 6 months and 5 years. For further information see the Department of Health website.

**Swine flu: frequently asked questions (updated 18 March 2010)**

[ARCHIVED]  [Swine Influenza page](#)

**Department of Health (UK)**


[ARCHIVE]  [DH Pandemic Flu site](#)
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

**ECDC Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview (19 March 2010)**

- For the second consecutive week, all reporting countries experienced low intensity influenza activity.
- Of the 416 specimens collected by sentinel physicians, 26 (6.3%) were positive for influenza virus, mainly the pandemic virus. Still, there was some circulation of influenza B viruses.
- The number of weekly reported SARI cases remained low (n=12).
- Even though, globally, the world remains in pandemic Phase 6, influenza activity caused by the 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) virus is well past its winter peak in EU/EEA countries. However, transmission and sporadic cases continue to occur. Most cases of influenza-like illness in EU/EEA countries are not due to influenza.

**ECDC forward look risk assessment: Likely scenarios for influenza in 2010 and the 2010/2011 influenza season in Europe and the consequent work priorities**

[ARCHIVED]  [Maps, surveillance summaries and previous ECDC updates](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/influenza/h1n1/)

**European Union**

**Eurobarometer on Influenza H1N1: Survey conducted by The Gallup Organization, Hungary upon the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Health and Consumers**

[ARCHIVE]  [European Union Influenza H1N1 page](http://ec.europa.eu/energy_transport/energy/policies/energy_insecurity/energy_transport.htm)

**Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)**

**Regional Update, Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. (March 15, 2010)**

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- In the Caribbean, Jamaica and Bahamas reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- In Central American, Panama and Nicaragua reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease.
- In South America, Brazil reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- In North America and Colombia, a median of 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- 46 new confirmed deaths in 4 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,622 cumulative confirmed deaths.

[ARCHIVED]  [PAHO Influenza A (H1N1) Portal](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15475:influenza-a-h1n1&Itemid=9010)

**Australia and New Zealand**

**Australia:** [Influenza Surveillance Report No. 8 for the week ending 2010 Mar 5](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/influenzareport20100305)

- In 2010, as at 5 March, there have been 50 confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza reported in Australia, bringing the total of confirmed cases to 37,686 since 2009. In addition, there were 12 reported cases of influenza type A not sub-typed and 6 cases of influenza type B.
Influenza-like illness remains relatively low nationally. However, some indicators are showing increases or are at levels slightly above those experienced at the same time in previous years:

- Enquiries to the National Health Call Centre Network (NHCCN) remain low but higher than 2009;
- National ILI presentation rates to General Practitioners remained low at 6 patients per 1,000 visits, with some jurisdictions showing an increase;
- ILI presentations to emergency departments (EDs) in New South Wales and Western Australia were slightly above levels seen at the same time in previous years;
- FluTracking shows a slight increase in ILI nationally; and
- Absenteeism rates have remained stable and are similar to levels seen at the same time in previous years.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus continues to be the predominant influenza virus circulating worldwide. In China and Hong Kong, however, seasonal influenza type B viruses accounted for 83.5% and 56.1% of all influenza detected in the reporting week, respectively.

As at 28 February 2010, the WHO Regional Offices reported at least 16,455 deaths associated with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza worldwide. In the Northern Hemisphere, active but declining pandemic influenza transmission persists in areas of Eastern and South Eastern Europe and South East Asia.

NZ: Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu): Update 176 (2010 Mar 19)

- Influenza activity remains low and this is what we would expect at this time of year.
- The seasonal influenza vaccination programme is in full swing, and early feedback suggests that people are keen to take advantage of the protection provided against three strains of influenza, including H1N1 (the pandemic strain).
- During the week 8 - 14 March 2010, none of the swabs collected from patients presenting with influenza-like illnesses tested positive for influenza. The number of people with an influenza-like illness visiting their doctor has increased slightly; however, activity remains below 'baseline' levels.

[ARCHIVED] New Zealand’s H1N1 page

[ARCHIVED] Australia’s H1N1 Update Bulletins

World Health Organization (WHO)

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 92 (2010 Mar 19)

More than 213 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including at least 16813 deaths.

[ARCHIVED] WHO H1N1 Guidance Documents

[ARCHIVED] Older WHO Updates

pH1N1 Clinical Information

[ARCHIVED] Ebsco Influenza Portal

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.

Medline literature search on H1N1 (current as of today)

Critical illness due to 2009 A/H1N1 influenza in pregnant and postpartum women: population based cohort study
ANZIC Influenza Investigators; Australasian Maternity Outcomes Surveillance System. BMJ. 2010 Mar 18;340:c1279. doi:10.1136/bmj.c1279

Editorial: Critical illness as a result of influenza A/H1N1 infection in pregnancy
Lapinsky SE. BMJ. 2010 Mar 18;340:c1235. doi:10.1136/bmj.c1235

Morbid Obesity as a Risk Factor for Hospitalization and Death Due to 2009 Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1) Disease

Acute Kidney Injury in Critically Ill Patients Infected With 2009 Pandemic Influenza A(H1N1): Report From a Canadian Province

Pandemic Dynamics and the Breakdown of Herd Immunity

Genetic Characterization of the Influenza A Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Virus Isolates from India

Letter: One Flu for One Health
Capua I, Cattoli G. Emerg Infect Dis. Published online ahead of print 2010 Mar 17.

Letter: Risk for transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus by blood transfusion

Letter: Patients with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in intensive care units, Israel

Following a rural recipe. South Dakota's H1N1 strategy might provide pandemic blueprint.*

Hyercytokinemia with 2009 pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) influenza successfully treated with polymyxin B-immobilized fiber column hemoperfusion.
**Dynamics of clinical symptoms in patients with pandemic influenza A (H1N1).**

**Clinical characteristics of pneumonia in hospitalized patients with novel influenza A (H1N1) in Korea.**

**Complexity in Influenza Virus Targeted Drug Design: Interaction with Human Sialidases.**

**Transmission dynamics of an influenza model with vaccination and antiviral treatment.**

**Self-reported anticipated compliance with physician advice to stay home during pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Results from the 2009 Queensland Social Survey.**

**Inactivation of Avian Influenza Virus H1N1 by Photocatalyst under Visible Light Irradiation.**

**Letter: H1N1 influenza in an extremely premature baby with chronic lung disease.**

**Characterizing the initial diffusion pattern of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 using surveillance data.**

**Acute Necrotizing Encephalopathy in a Child during the 2009 Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemia: MR Imaging in Diagnosis and Follow-Up.**

**Are Neuroimaging Findings in Novel Influenza A(H1N1) Infection Really Novel?**

**WHO Knows Best? National and International Responses to Pandemic Threats and the "Lessons" of 1976.**

**Controversies in Vaccine Mandates.**

Letter: Comparison of adult patients hospitalised with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza and seasonal influenza during the "PROTECT" phase of the pandemic response.

**Issue Briefs: Issues of Concern Regarding 2009 H1N1 Influenza.**

**A Large-Scale Points-of-Dispensing Exercise for First Responders and First Receivers in Nassau County, New York.**
Assessing the burden of paediatric influenza in Europe: the European Paediatric Influenza Analysis (EPIA) project.

Preliminary estimation of risk factors for admission to intensive care units and for death in patients infected with A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus, France, 2009-2010.

Evolutionary pattern of pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 virus in the late phases of the 2009 pandemic.

Quantification of the severity of an outbreak in human infection control.*

Identification of influenza A pandemic (H1N1) 2009 variants during the first 2009 influenza outbreak in Mexico City.*

Research findings from nonpharmaceutical intervention studies for pandemic influenza and current gaps in the research.*

University life and pandemic influenza: Attitudes and intended behaviour of staff and students towards pandemic (H1N1) 2009*

Cost-effectiveness of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine among healthcare workers during an influenza pandemic.

Recommendations for the management of children with H1N1 novel influenza infection.

Recommended viruses for influenza vaccines for use in the 2010-2011 northern hemisphere influenza season.

Unseasonal Transmission of H3N2 Influenza A Virus During the Swine-Origin H1N1 Pandemic

Stockpiling anti-viral drugs for a pandemic: The role of Manufacturer Reserve Programs.*
Harrington JE Jr, Hsu EB. J Health Econ. Published online ahead of print 2010 Mar 15.

First evidence of a pro-inflammatory response to severe infection with influenza virus H1N1*

Lack of compliance with national vaccination guidelines in oncology patients receiving radiation therapy.

Pathologic Findings in Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus (“Swine Flu”) Infection: Contrasting Clinical Manifestations and Lung Pathology in Two Fatal Cases*

Travel Advisories

[NOV 27] WHO: Travel Safety
[NOV 19] Travel Health Notice: Global H1N1 flu virus
[OCT 29] H1N1 Backgrounder: Planes, Trains, Ferries and Buses—Advice for Travellers, Crews and Operators
[OCT 26] Hajj Pilgrims: Recommendations for travel