August 10, 2009

H1N1 Influenza A Update

New York Statewide School Health Services Center

www.schoolhealthservicesny.com

The following information can be found on our H1N1 Flu page found on the main navigational bar of our website or at:
http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/h1n1.cfm

- From the NYS Department of Health:
  For the week of 7/26/09 – 8/1/09: New confirmed cases: 38
  Cumulative case count: 1138
- From the Centers for Disease Control:
  National data as of 8/6/09: Hospitalized cases: 6506
  Confirmed deaths: 436
  For New York State, the weekly surveillance report for the week ending 8/1/09 indicates that the spread of H1N1 Influenza in our state is considered to be: Regional
- The World Health Organization Pandemic Alert Level remains at Level 6.

Please see the important new resources below. They can be found under the "Flu.gov" heading on our H1N1 page (they are marked *New* to make them easy to find on the page):

- **CDC Guidance for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year**
  This document provides guidance to help decrease the spread of flu among students and school staff during the 2009-2010 school year. This document expands upon earlier school guidance documents by providing a menu of tools that school and health officials can choose from based on conditions in their area. It recommends actions to take this school year and suggests strategies to use if CDC finds that the flu starts causing more severe disease. The guidance also provides a checklist for making decisions at the local level. Detailed information on the reasons for these strategies and suggestions on how to use them is included in the Technical Report. Based on the severity of 2009 H1N1 flu-related illness thus far, this guidance also recommends that students and staff with influenza-like illness remain home until 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- **Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12)**
  This resource includes Questions and Answers, two Fact Sheets for Schools and Teachers, three Fact Sheets to inform Parents and two templates for Parent Communication.