

November 5, 2009

# H1N1 Influenza A Update

New York Statewide School Health Services Center

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## CDC Key Flu Indicators for October 18 - 24

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- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased steeply since last week in the United States, and overall, are much higher than what is expected for this time of the year. ILI activity now is higher than what is seen during the peak of many regular flu seasons.
- Total influenza hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu are climbing and are higher than expected for this time of year. Hospitalization rates continue to be highest in younger populations with the highest hospitalization rate reported in children 0-4 years old.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report has increased and has been higher than what is expected at this time of year for four weeks now.
- Forty-eight states, including New York, are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time. This many reports of widespread activity are unprecedented during seasonal flu.
- Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

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## What to Watch For – New Guidance to be Released Soon

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### N-95 masks

To assist schools in complying with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)/Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) respiratory protection requirement for healthcare workers caring for students with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) to wear N-95 respirators; the NYS Education Department (NYSED) and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) are developing informational materials and a training program. More information will be out soon.



### School Based Vaccination Clinic Guidance

A guidance packet developed by NYSED and NYSDOH is being finalized. This information will include a sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between a school district and the vaccinator, along with a parent/guardian consent form specifically for school based vaccination clinics. These materials will be available soon.

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## School Absenteeism Monitoring for Novel H1N1 Virus in K-12 Educational Facilities for the 2009 – 2010 School Year

With influenza like illness rapidly increasing throughout New York State, please remember the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has a tool to assist you in tracking school absenteeism data through their electronic reporting system found on the NYSDOH Health Provider Network Commerce System. While this reporting is voluntary, both the New York State Education Department and NYSDOH are strongly encouraging all public and nonpublic, elementary and secondary educational institutions to cooperate with local and state health officials in providing illness-related data on absenteeism and early dismissal using this system.

Additional information about the School Absenteeism Reporting can be found on our H1N1 Flu page at:

<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/h1n1.cfm>



### H1N1 Influenza A Cases

*New York State Department of Health*

Week ending	Flu A	Flu B	Flu, type unknown	Total
October 24	2006	17	5	2028

*Centers for Disease Control – National Data as of October 27, 2009*

Cases Defined by	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Influenza and Pneumonia Syndrome*	25,985	2,916
Influenza Laboratory-Tests**	12,466	530

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