



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

October 2, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario released Ontario's Flu Vaccine Strategy for 2009/2010 flu season on September 24, 2009. The strategy highlights a phased approach in rolling out two immunization programs (Seasonal and H1N1) this year:
 - Beginning October, **Seasonal Flu Vaccine** will be offered to persons 65 years and older and residents of long-term care facilities
 - Beginning November, Ontario will offer the province's population the **H1N1 vaccine** starting with the priority groups listed below:
 - persons with chronic medical conditions under the age of 65
 - pregnant women
 - healthy children 6 months to less than 5 years of age
 - persons residing in remote and isolated settings or communities
 - health care workers involved in pandemic response or who deliver essential health services
 - household contacts or caregivers of those at high risk who cannot be immunized
 - populations otherwise identified as high risk
 - In December/January, **Seasonal Flu Vaccine** will be offered through the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) to all persons who live, work or attend school in Ontario
- **Anti-virals** continue to be recommended at this time only for treatment of moderate to severe cases or those at high risk for complications

HURON COUNTY

As of September 26, 2009 (week 38)

- 2 Laboratory confirmed cases of pH1N1, 1 hospitalization and 0 deaths since June 2009
- No confirmed cases of Influenza since the start of the 2009/2010 flu season
- No new institutional respiratory outbreak since August 2009
- The rate of ILI visits to ER increased from 4.5% in the previous week to 8.5%. (data taken from 3 hospitals)

ONTARIO

As of September 19, 2009 (week 37):

- 4,075 confirmed pH1N1
- 373 confirmed cases hospitalized and 24 deaths as of September 24, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 2.89 per 100,000 and a population-based mortality rate of 0.19 per 100,000. Majority of fatal cases (88%) had underlying medical conditions.
- There were 4 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. 1 related to RSV and 3 in which the organism was unidentified
- Health units reported either sporadic or no influenza activity for the reporting week
- The overall ILI consultation rate increased slightly from 20.5 to 21.6 per 1000 patient visits

CANADA

As of September 19, 2009 (week 37):

- 191 specimens tested positive for influenza in week 37. 100% were influenza A, 98.3% of the positive influenza A were pH1N1
- 1,467 confirmed cases hospitalized and 78 deaths since the start of the pandemic
- Children under 2 years of age, pregnant women, persons under 65 with underlying medical conditions and aboriginal populations had higher rates of hospitalization and a greater risk of severe outcome
- National ILI consultation rate increased from 23 per 1000 to 32 per 1000 patient visits and was higher than expected for this time of year
- The intensity of pH1N1 infection 2009 in the Canadian population was low with only eight hospitalizations and two deaths reported in week 37
- In conclusion, no indication yet of emergence of the 2nd wave of pH1N1 2009 but significant increase of influenza activity in southern BC

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of September 20, 2009 influenza activity in the temperate region of the northern hemisphere is increasing in many areas. In the US ILI activity continues to increase above the baseline for the past 2-3 weeks. In Europe and Central and Western Asia influenza activity is showing regional increases. All pH1N1 2009 influenza viruses analyzed to date have been antigenically and genetically similar to A/California/7/2009-like pandemic H1N1 2009 virus
- **US:** 99% of all sub-typed influenza A were pH1N1. Twenty-six states reported geographically widespread influenza activity, 11 states reported regional activity, 12 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico reported localized influenza activity. Visits to doctors for influenza continue to increase increasing nationally

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_o8/flubul_mn.html
- Public Health Agency of Canada at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/