



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

December 4, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- All measures indicate that influenza activity is on the decline
- Recent **Important Health Notices (IHNs)** issued by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (these can be found on the health unit website):
 - Frequently asked questions on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for Health Care Providers (November 20, 2009)
 - Information for health care providers- pH1N1 update (November 13, 2009)
 - Information for all Ontario healthcare providers regarding access to infection control supplies and equipment from the provincial stockpile. (November 12, 2009)
 - Information for family physicians regarding remuneration and other supports available to address a surge in demand for services as a result of the Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza virus (November 2, 2009)
- An **on-line Influenza Self-Assessment Tool** has been developed by the MOHLTC to help Ontarians decide what to do when they think they may have the flu. It can be found on the health unit website
- **Guidelines for the management and treatment of patients** in the different healthcare settings during the pandemic, were released by the MOHLTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Guidance document for pharmacies and pharmacists on Ontario's **Antiviral distribution strategy** for managing influenza like illness during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, was released by the MOHLTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Guidance for the **Prevention and Management of Influenza-Like Illness in Child Care Settings** during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, was released by the MOHLTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Guidance for the **Management of Influenza-Like-Illness for Pre-Hospital Care Settings** during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, was released by the MOHLTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Additional Guidance documents from the MOHLTC can be found on the health unit website

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HURON COUNTY

As of December 4, 2009:

<i>Time Period</i>	Influenza A				<i>Total</i>
	<i>pH1N1</i>	<i>Other subtypes/not sub typed</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>	<i>Influenza A&B</i>	
Sept 1, 2009– Dec 4, 2009	25	27	0	0	52
Sept 1, 2008- Aug 31, 2009	2	16	35	0	53

As of November 28, 2009 (week 47):

- No new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period
- The rate of ILI visits to hospital emergency departments decreased from 8.4% to 6.3%
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools was 4.9%, similar to the previous week
- The rate of ILI visits to sentinel physician decreased from 125 to 45.5 per 1000 patient visits

ONTARIO

As of November 28, 2009 (week 47):

- 8,538 confirmed pH1N1 across Ontario since the start of the pandemic (52% in wave two)
- 1,656 confirmed cases hospitalized and 104 deaths as of December 2, 2009. 79% of deaths and 77% of hospitalization occurred in wave 2 of the pandemic. Mortality due to pH1N1 increased with increasing age, with people in the 50-64 and in the 65 and older age groups accounting for the highest mortality rates.
- There was 1 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. No organism was identified
- 6 health units reported localized influenza activity and 23 reported sporadic influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate decreased from 56.13 to 40.36 per 1000 patient visits

CANADA

As of November 28, 2009 (week 47):

- Nationally, the activity levels reported for this week continued to decrease compared to the previous week
- All FluWatch indicators declined in week 47
- The intensity of the Pandemic (H1N1) in the population was moderately high with 804 hospitalizations, 139 ICU admissions and 56 deaths reported in one week
- The pH1N1 strain accounted for nearly 100% (99.8%) of the positive influenza A sub-typed specimens
- 7,795 confirmed cases hospitalized and 336 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- National ILI consultation rate decreased significantly 91 to 37 per 1000 patient visits

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of November 29, 2009, globally at least 8768 deaths from pH1N1 reported to the WHO. Majority of the deaths were reported from the Region of the Americas. North America, the Caribbean islands and a limited number of European countries show signs that disease activity peaked. Pandemic (H1N1) isolates with the D222G mutation which may play a role in receptor binding of the virus have been observed in France, Norway, Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine, US, and Finland. To date, 75 resistant pandemic H1N1 influenza viruses have been detected and characterized worldwide, 23 in the United States. All of these viruses show the same H275Y mutation that confers resistance to the antiviral oseltamivir.
- **US:** As of November 28, 2009, 25 states reported geographically widespread influenza activity and 17 reported regional influenza activity. ILI consultation rate was 3.0%, down from 5.5% the previous week, although still exceeding what was normally seen during the peak of most regular influenza seasons. From August 30 – November 28, 2009, there were 31,320 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 1,336 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/flu_bulletin.aspx
- Public Health Agency of Canada at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/