



# Huron County Health Unit

## Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

### Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: [www.huroncounty.ca/health](http://www.huroncounty.ca/health)

## November 6, 2009

### IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 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 on November 4, 2009 and can be found on the health unit website
- **In Huron County, H1N1 Vaccine** is now being offered to the following priority groups:
  - People ages 6 months to 64 years who have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, or a condition that weakens the immune system
  - healthy children 6 months to 4 years old
  - all pregnant women with pre-existing health conditions
  - healthy pregnant women in the second half of their pregnancy (more than 20 weeks)
  - people who live with or care givers for infants under six months of age or people with conditions that weaken the immune system
- The unadjuvanted H1N1 vaccine for all pregnant women is now available. Pregnant women are encouraged to talk to their health care provider about the H1N1 vaccine

#### Huron County Health Unit

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## HURON COUNTY

As of November 5, 2009:

<i>Time Period</i>	<b>Influenza A</b>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>pH1N1</i>	<i>Other subtypes/not sub typed</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>	<i>Influenza A&amp;B</i>	
Sept 1, 2009– Oct 29, 2009	14	19	0	0	33
Sept 1, 2008- Aug. 31, 2009	2	16	35	0	53

As of October 31, 2009 (week 43):

- 1 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period
- The rate of ILI visits to hospital emergency departments increased from 10.6% to 24.0%
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools ranged from 2.8-24.4% and was greater than 10% in more than half of the schools

## ONTARIO

As of October 24, 2009 (week 42):

- 4,814 confirmed pH1N1 across Ontario since the start of the pandemic
- 543 confirmed cases hospitalized and 30 deaths as of October 28, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 4.2 per 100,000 and a population-based mortality rate of 0.23 per 100,000. Hospitalization rate was highest in persons under 5 years old and death rate was highest in persons > 50 years old. 26 (87%) of the fatal cases had underlying medical conditions
- 20% of the hospitalized cases required ventilator and/or ICU support
- There were 11 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. 3 were due to Influenza A
- 5 health units reported widespread influenza activity and 10 reported localized influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate increased from 59.0 to 79.3 per 1000 patient visits in the previous week

## CANADA

As of October 24, 2009 (week 42):

- The Minister of Health announced on October 23, that Canada has officially entered the second wave of the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- Striking increases in overall influenza activity across the country, particularly in the west
- This week, approximately 99.7% of the positive influenza A subtyped specimens were pH1N1 2009
- 1,779 confirmed cases hospitalized and 92 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The national hospitalization rate was 5.3 per 100,000 with the highest rates among children

under 15 years of age (10.9 per 100,000). The national mortality rate was 0.28 per 100,000; those 45 years and older had the highest mortality rate (0.40 per 100,000)

- National ILI consultation rate increased from 48 to 59 per 1000 patient visits and remains higher than expected for this time of year

## **GLOBALLY**

- **WHO:** Globally, teenagers and young adults continue to account for the majority of cases, with rates of hospitalization highest in very young. Between 1% to 10% of patients with clinical illness require hospitalization. Of hospitalized patients, from 10% to 25% require admission to an intensive care unit, and from 2% to 9% have a fatal outcome. On October 30, 2009 the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunizations recommended a single dose of vaccine for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for adults and adolescents over 10 years.
- **US:** As of October 24, 2009, 48 states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. Outpatient visits for influenza-like-illness is increasing and is higher than expected for this time of year. From August 30 – October 24, 2009, there were 12,466 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 530 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths, 25,985 pneumonia and influenza syndrome-based hospitalizations, and 2,916 pneumonia and influenza syndrome-based deaths, reported to CDC.

## **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](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/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/)