



# Huron County Health Unit

## Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

### Weekly Information Bulletin

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

## October 9, 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 October 3, 2009 (week 39)

- 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 ranged from 0-8.8%. 3 out of 5 hospitals in the county experienced an increased rate of ILI visits to ER when compared to the previous week

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## ONTARIO

As of September 26, 2009 (week 38):

- 4,089 confirmed pH1N1
- 379 confirmed cases hospitalized and 24 deaths as of September 30, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 2.93 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 8 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. 1 related to Parainfluenza and 7 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 21.6 to 28.8 per 1000 patient visits

## CANADA

As of September 26, 2009 (week 38):

- 234 specimens tested positive for influenza in week 38. 100% were influenza A, 99.1% of the positive influenza A were pH1N1
- 1,479 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 was 31 per 1000 patient visits, similar to the previous week but higher than expected for this time of year
- The intensity of pH1N1 infection 2009 in the Canadian population was low with 12 hospitalizations and no deaths reported in week 38

## GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of September 27, 2009, influenza-like-illness (ILI) continues to increase in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. In the US levels of ILI remain above baseline for 4 weeks in most regions. In Mexico a high intensity of respiratory disease has been reported for two consecutive weeks.
- **US:** As of September 26, 2009, 99% of all sub-typed influenza A were pH1N1. Twenty-seven states reported geographically widespread influenza activity, Guam and 18 states reported regional activity, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico reported localized influenza activity. Out patient visits for influenza-like-illness continue to increase 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](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/)

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