



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

November 13, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- Recent **Important Health Notices (IHNs)** issued by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (these can be found on the health unit website):
 - 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 (pH1N1). (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 on November 4, 2009 and can be found on the health unit website
- Ontario is opening its **H1N1 immunization** program to first responders (police and firefighters), frontline institutional correctional workers, and people aged 65 and over who live in institutions like long-term care homes

HURON COUNTY

As of November 10, 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– Nov 12, 2009	15	26	0	0	41
Sept 1, 2008- Aug 31, 2009	2	16	35	0	53

As of November 7, 2009 (week 44):

- No new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period
- The rate of ILI visits to hospital emergency departments decreased slightly from 24.0% to 21.4%
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools ranged from 2.9-26.4% and was greater than 10% in more than 60% of schools
- The rate of ILI visits to sentinel physician increased from 81.5 to 234.4 per 1000 patient visits

ONTARIO

As of October 31, 2009 (week 43):

- 5,994 confirmed pH1N1 across Ontario since the start of the pandemic
- 954 confirmed cases hospitalized and 54 deaths as of November 10, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 7.3 per 100,000 and a population-based mortality rate of 0.41 per 100,000. 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 were 14 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. 9 were due to Influenza A
- 14 health units reported widespread influenza activity and 10 reported localized influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate increased from 79.3 to 138.5 per 1000 patient visits

CANADA

As of October 31, 2009 (week 43):

- The intensity of the Pandemic (H1N1) in the population was high with 661 hospitalizations and 8 deaths reported in one week
- 99.7% of the positive influenza A subtyped specimens were pH1N1 2009

- 2,440 confirmed cases hospitalized and 100 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The national hospitalization rate was 7.3 per 100,000 and the mortality rate was 0.3 per 100,000
- National ILI consultation rate increased significantly from 59 to 111 per 1000 patient visits

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** Intense and persistent influenza transmission continues to be reported in North America without evidence of a peak in activity. The proportion of sentinel physician visits due to influenza-like-illness (ILI)(8%) has exceeded levels seen over the past 6 influenza seasons; 42% of respiratory samples tested were positive for influenza and 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic H1N1 2009. Rates of ILI, proportions of respiratory samples testing positive for influenza, and numbers of outbreaks in educational settings continues to increase sharply in Canada as activity spreads eastward. Significantly more cases of pandemic H1N1 have been recorded in Mexico since September than were observed during the initial springtime epidemic.
- **US:** As of October 31, 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 31, 2009, there were 17,838 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 672 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths

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/