



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

October 16, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- An important health notice was issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) on October 14, 2009. The full document can be viewed at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/ihn_20091014.pdf
- **Guidelines for the management and treatment of patients** in the different healthcare settings during the pandemic, were released by the MOHLTC on October 14, 2009 and can be viewed at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/>.
 - Guidance for Management of Patients with Influenza-Like Illness in Emergency Departments during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
 - Guidance for the Management of Influenza-Like Illness in Ambulatory Care Settings during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
 - Guidance for Management of Patients with Influenza-Like Illness in Long-Term Care Settings during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- Two flu immunization programs will be rolled out this year in a phased approach:
 - 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

HURON COUNTY

As of October 3, 2009 (week 40)

- 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
- 2 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. No organism has been identified
- The rate of ILI visits to ER was 3.1% compared to 3.9% in the previous week
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools ranged from 0.9-4.2%

ONTARIO

As of October 3, 2009 (week 39):

- 4,144 confirmed pH1N1
- 387 confirmed cases hospitalized and 27 deaths as of October 7, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 3 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 10 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. No organism was identified
- 3 Health units reported localized influenza activity. In comparison to week 38 where all health units reported either 'sporadic' or no influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate increased from 28.8 to 41.2 per 1000 patient visits

CANADA

As of October 3, 2009 (week 39):

- This week, approximately 97% of the positive influenza A subtyped specimens were pH1N1 2009, and the remainder were seasonal A (H1N1).
- 1,504 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 36 per 1000 patient visits, slightly higher than the previous week and higher than expected for this time of year
- The total number of influenza outbreaks was high this week with 40 outbreaks in schools

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of October 9, 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 5 consecutive weeks in most regions. The number of confirmed cases in Mexico reached higher levels in September than the Pandemic Peak in April 2009

- **US:** As of September 26, 2009, 99% of all sub-typed influenza A were pH₁N₁. Most states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. Outpatient visits for influenza-like-illness was above national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was at the epidemic threshold

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/