



# Huron County Health Unit

## Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

### Weekly Information Bulletin

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

## September 18, 2009

### IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- More patients with influenza like symptoms in Ontario consulted **sentinel physicians** this week compared to the previous week.
- There will be sufficient **H1N1 vaccine** available in Canada for everyone that needs and wants to be immunized. No one will be left out. However the immediate priority will be to target those who will benefit the most from immunization as well as those who care for them. Those that will benefit most include:
  - persons with chronic medical conditions
  - pregnant women
  - 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
- **Seasonal Influenza vaccine** will be arriving in late September and early October.
- **Anti-virals** continue to be recommended at this time only for treatment of moderate to severe cases or those at high risk for complications.
- **Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic H1N1 2009 in Elementary and Secondary Schools** was issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on August 28, 2009 and can be found on the health unit website.

### HURON COUNTY

As of September 12, 2009 (week 36)

- First pH1N1 case identified in June 2009
- 2 Laboratory confirmed cases of pH1N1 since June 2009
- 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
- Proportion of patients visiting ER with ILI symptoms ranged from 6.7%-11.5% (data taken from 3 hospitals)

## ONTARIO

As of September 5, 2009 (week 35):

- 4,064 laboratory confirmed pH1N1 as of September 5, 2009.
- 370 confirmed cases hospitalized and 23 deaths as of September 9, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 2.86 per 100,000 and a population-based mortality rate of 0.18 per 100,000. Majority of fatal cases (87%) had underlying medical conditions.
- 2 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. No organism was identified.
- Health units reported sporadic or no influenza activity for the reporting week.
- The overall ILI consultation rate increased from 13.96 to 23.96 per 1000 patient visits.

## CANADA

As of September 5, 2009 (week 35):

- 7,107 confirmed pH1N1 across Canada.
- 1,445 confirmed cases hospitalized and 74 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- Those under 15 had the highest rates of hospitalization; however mortality was highest in those 45 years and older. Mortality was also elevated in the population under one year of age.
- National ILI consultation rate (14 per 1000) was higher than the previous week.

## GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of August 30, 2009 WHO reports 2,837 deaths with pH1N1. Pandemic (H1N1) is the predominant influenza strain worldwide. Many countries in the temperate regions of the southern hemisphere has passed their peak of their winter influenza epidemic.
- **US:** As of September 4, 2009, the CDC reports 9,079 hospitalized cases, and 593 deaths due to pH1N1 2009. From August 23-29, 6 states (Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina) and Puerto Rico are reporting widespread influenza activity.
- **Mexico:** As of September 8, 2009, Mexico reports 23,245 confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, and 209 deaths. Majority (64.9%) of confirmed cases are between 5 to 29 years.
- **Australia:** As of September 8, 2009, Australia has 35,701 confirmed cases and 162 deaths. As of August 28, 2009 influenza activity appears to be decreasing.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care:  
[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: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/)