



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

November 27, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- All measures indicate that influenza activity is on the decline
- Recent **Important Health Notices (IHNs)** issued by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (these can be found on the health unit website):
 - Frequently asked questions on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for Health Care Providers (November 20, 2009)
 - Information for health care providers- pH1N1 update (November 13, 2009)
 - 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 (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 by the MOHTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Guidance for the **Management of Influenza-Like-Illness for Pre-Hospital Care Settings** during Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, was released by the MOHLTC and can be found on the health unit website
- Ontario has opened its **H1N1 immunization** program to the general public

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HURON COUNTY

As of November 23, 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 23, 2009 | 23 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 52 |
| Sept 1, 2008- Aug 31, 2009 | 2 | 16 | 35 | 0 | 53 |

As of November 21, 2009 (week 46):

- No new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period
- The rate of ILI visits to hospital emergency departments decreased from 16.4% to 8.4%
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools decreased from 6.0% to 4.8%
- The rate of ILI visits to sentinel physician increased from 75 to 125 per 1000 patient visits

ONTARIO

As of November 14, 2009 (week 45):

- 7,793 confirmed pH1N1 across Ontario since the start of the pandemic (52.4% in wave two)
- 1325 confirmed cases hospitalized and 79 deaths as of November 18, 2009. 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 8 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. 5 were due to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- 11 health units reported widespread influenza activity and 13 reported localized influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate decreased from 134.7 to 115.17 per 1000 patient visits

CANADA

As of November 14, 2009 (week 45):

- Overall the activity level was similar to the previous week
- The intensity of the Pandemic (H1N1) in the population was high with 1674 hospitalizations and 84 deaths reported in one week
- The pH1N1 strain accounted for nearly 100% (99.8%) of the positive influenza A sub-typed specimens
- 5,438 confirmed cases hospitalized and 219 deaths since the start of the pandemic.
- National ILI consultation rate decreased slightly for a second consecutive week from 100 to 91 per 1000 patient visits

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of November 15, 2009, globally over 500,000 confirmed cases and 6770 deaths from pH1N1 reported to the WHO. the winter influenza season which began unusually early across much of the northern hemisphere, is showing early signs of peaking in North America but is intensifying across much of Europe and Central and Eastern Asia
- **US:** As of November 14, 2009, 43 states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. ILI consultation rate was 5.5%, down from 6.3% the previous week, although still exceeding what was normally seen during the peak of most regular influenza seasons. From August 30 – November 14, 2009, there were 26,315 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 1,049 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/