



Huron County Health Unit

Novel H1N1 Influenza Pandemic (pH1N1)

Weekly Information Bulletin

For more information: www.huroncounty.ca/health

October 30, 2009

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

- 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
- The **Seasonal Flu Vaccine** is now being offered to persons 65 years and older and residents of long-term care facilities. It will also be available to the rest of the population by January
- **In Huron County, H1N1 Vaccine** is now being offered to the following priority groups:
 - People ages 6 months to 64 years who have a chronic medical condition such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, or a condition that weakens the immune system
 - healthy children 6 months to 4 years old
 - all pregnant women with pre-existing health conditions
 - healthy pregnant women in the second half of their pregnancy (more than 20 weeks)
 - people who live with or care givers for infants under six months of age or people with conditions that weaken the immune system
- Health care workers are also identified as a priority group. The health unit is working with the health care workplaces to develop a plan for H1N1 immunization.
- There is a special H1N1 vaccine for pregnant women who are less than 20 weeks. It will be available in early November. Any pregnant woman is encouraged to talk to her health care provider about the H1N1 vaccine

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HURON COUNTY

As of October 29, 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– Oct 29, 2009	2	8	0	0	10
Sept 1, 2008- Aug. 31, 2009	2	16	35	0	53

As of October 24, 2009 (week 42)

- No new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period
- The rate of ILI visits to hospital emergency departments increased from 5.2% to 10.6%
- Average daily all-cause absenteeism in schools ranged from 1.4-16.4% and increased in over 50% of schools when compared to the previous week

ONTARIO

As of October 17, 2009 (week 41):

- 4,388 confirmed pH1N1 across Ontario since the start of the pandemic
- 439 confirmed cases hospitalized and 28 deaths as of October 14, 2009; representing a population-based hospitalization rate of 3.40 per 100,000 and a population-based mortality rate of 0.22 per 100,000. Hospitalization rate was highest in persons under 5 years old and death rate was highest in persons > 50 years old. Majority of the fatal cases (89%) had underlying medical conditions
- 21% of the hospitalized cases required ventilator and/or ICU support
- There were 7 new institutional respiratory outbreaks for the reporting period. No organism was identified
- 1 health unit reported widespread influenza activity and 7 reported localized influenza activity
- The overall ILI consultation rate was 59.0 compared to 41.4 per 1000 patient visits in the previous week

CANADA

As of October 17, 2009 (week 41):

- Overall influenza activity has increased for the fifth consecutive week
- This week, approximately 99.9% of the positive influenza A subtyped specimens were pH1N1 2009

- 1,604 confirmed cases hospitalized and 83 deaths since the start of the pandemic. The national hospitalization rate was 4.8 per 100,000 with the highest rates among children under 15 years of age (10.9 per 100,000). The national mortality rate was 0.25 per 100,000; those 45 years and older had the highest mortality rate (0.36 per 100,000)
- National ILI consultation rate increased from 43 to 48 per 1000 patient visits and remains higher than expected for this time of year

GLOBALLY

- **WHO:** As of October 17, 2009, 414,000 confirmed cases of pH1N1 and nearly 5000 deaths globally. 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 7 consecutive weeks in most regions. Mexico is also reporting high intensity and active transmission in some areas of the country
- **US:** As of October 17, 2009, 46 states reported geographically widespread influenza activity. Outpatient visits for influenza-like-illness is increasing and is higher than expected for this time of year. Total hospitalization for lab confirmed flu are climbing and is higher than expected for this time of year. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above 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/