

## **SITUATION REPORT ON 2009 H1N1 FLU OUTBREAK**

April 30, 2009

1600 hours

**OVERVIEW** – On Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Division of Public Health learned that a new influenza virus now designated as 2009 H1N1 Flu had infected people in California, Texas, and Mexico. It is now evident that this new virus is spreading from person to person.

- Local and state health officials in Wisconsin today announced 5 probable cases of H1N1 infection—2 in Milwaukee County, 1 in Adams County, 1 in Sheboygan County, and 1 in Ozaukee County. Confirmation will be determined by CDC lab tests.
- The World Health Organization maintains its pandemic alert at Level 5, its second-highest level. Level 6 indicates a full scale pandemic. Level 5 means all countries should be activating their pandemic preparedness plans.
- CDC today reported 109 laboratory-confirmed cases in the U.S., including cases in 11 states. It is considered likely to be relatively widespread in the U.S.
- The first swine flu-related death in the U.S. was reported in Texas—a 22-month old child visiting from Mexico. In contrast, there have been many cases of pneumonia and some deaths in Mexico. The reasons for this difference are still under investigation.
- On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, CDC issued an advisory on travel to Mexico that recommends postpone of nonessential travel.
- Severity of illness from a new virus often changes with time. We cannot know if it will become more dangerous or more mild.
- Vaccinations given this winter for the “regular” seasonal human influenza will likely not have much effect against this new virus. However, one class of anti-viral medicines may reduce the length and severity of illness.

### **DPH Incident Command**

- The Division of Public Health activated its Incident Command structure and opened its Emergency Operations Center on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The EOC Phone center to triage calls was activated on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Tom Sieger, DPH Deputy Division Administrator, currently serves as Incident Commander.
- DPH EOC phone bank(Hours 0800-1900) is operational and responding to questions from clinicians, hospitals and healthcare providers Very high volume of calls. Additional line resources have been acquired. DHS epidemiologists, nurses, public health educators, and administrative support persons staff the phone bank. Spanish speaking staff is available. Scripts were developed for those staffing the DHS EOC phone bank. Additional personnel have been requested
- “211 Wisconsin” began answering general calls related to swine influenza today, 4/30/09. 211 has multilingual capability.

- Specific medical professionals already registered with Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) Medical Reserve Unit are being contacted for activation and a Medical Reserve Corps unit is on stand-by. Those medical professionals not registered on WEAVR who willing to work at informational phone banks are being asked to register with the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/WEAVR/>
- DPH continues its communications outreach activities with all sectors of the community including private industry, educational institutions, and all types. DPH is working to establish a liaison with business and industry.
- Swine flu informational materials in Spanish and Hmong have been posted on the [www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov](http://www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov)
- Coordinating with DPI on messaging for schools.
- The **DPH EOC** is currently open.

#### **Wisconsin Case Status as of 1530 hrs**

- 228 Submitted to WSLH for testing
- 182 Negative for H1N1
- 41 Pending
- 5 Probables
- 0 Confirmed
- State health officials and local health departments continue to work closely with clinical providers to identify and test suspect cases.

#### **DPH Activities**

- DPH is continuing its surveillance and is investigating suspected cases.
- DPH is working with local health departments, infection control experts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- DPH has sent out information and guidance on how to properly collect laboratory specimens and how to submit them to the state laboratory. The division has also offered guidance on isolation procedures.
- DPH will conduct on an “as-needed” basis a partner teleconference 3 times weekly to provide updates and answer questions.
- Health Officers are asked to report their confirmed and probable cases to DPH.
- **DPH Regional Office activities**
  - South Eastern Region:* Dispatched to City of Milwaukee Health Department to serve as liaisons as a result of two probable cases identified. Managing calls into the office. Three LHD related to technical assistance for suspected cases and clarification on communications or stakeholder briefings.
  - Northern Region:* Vilas Co. opening an EOC today. Tribal agencies may be meeting this afternoon regarding the Swine Flu.
  - Western Region:* Additional phone calls being handled by support staff using the triage page developed for the call lines. All LHDs are preparing to respond with a number having operational IC or EOC in place. Supporting LHD approval for testing if they were overwhelmed with us or needed off-hour coverage

**Strategic National Stockpile**

- FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorization for the use of Tamiflu and Relenza
- FDA has revised the PREP Act to cover medical products used for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.
- SNS deliveries to Wisconsin have commenced
- Antiviral medications are still available for purchase from the federal government
- CDC has stated there is no shortage of antiviral drugs in the commercial pharmacy supply chain