



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

H1N1 Situation Report

September 30, 2009 at 12:00 Hours

Overview

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that influenza activity is increasing in most of the United States with more than half of all states reporting widespread influenza activity. In Wisconsin, influenza activity is also on the rise.

People are encouraged to follow good hygiene precautions such as hand washing, covering their cough/sneeze with their sleeve or a tissue, and staying home when ill.

As H1N1 vaccine becomes available, people are encouraged to become immunized. The CDC is recommending that target groups be the first to receive the immunization as the H1N1 manufacturing process continues and is phased in until anyone who wants to receive the vaccine will be able to do so.

H1N1 Surveillance

Influenza-like illness activity continues to be elevated for this time of year. Influenza-like illness in the southern region, which increased in early September primarily due to illnesses at UW-Madison, has decreased. Influenza-like illness activity is moderate in the western and southeastern portions of the state, which are seeing sporadic cases. Influenza-like illnesses are also on the rise in the western and northeastern portions of the state, with the most active areas including the Green Bay area and the Fox Valley region.

Family practice visits for influenza-like symptoms have increased slightly over the past 3 weeks. Some family practice visits are due to other respiratory illnesses circulating in the state.

No H1N1 viruses in the state have been resistant to antiviral medications. Since September 1, 2009, Wisconsin had 9 hospitalizations and 0 deaths.

Seasonal Influenza Update

DHS is being contacted by some public and private providers due to a delay in receiving their seasonal influenza vaccine shipments. DHS has contacted the CDC which indicates seasonal influenza vaccine is available, but does acknowledge that some providers have not yet received their seasonal vaccine orders. DHS will be following CDC recommendations in encouraging the public to receive both seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccines as both viruses will be circulating this season.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

As reported previously, the H1N1 vaccine has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The vaccine is being manufactured using the seasonal influenza vaccine process, and the CDC is indicating the vaccine is safe and effective. Therefore, DHS is following the CDC's established vaccine distribution system where H1N1 vaccine orders are placed through each state's public health department.

DHS established pre-registration for health care providers to place their orders with the state – and more than 2,000 pre-registered to receive the vaccine. In addition, DHS has activated a call center for health professionals pertaining to vaccine ordering questions and information.

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The CDC will be supplying states with H1N1 vaccine based upon population rates. The CDC continues to work with the FDA to establish the vaccine lot approval and distribution process. All states are able to place their first H1N1 vaccine order today, September 30, and the vaccine distributors will ship orders directly to providers. The CDC is continuing to identify the amount of vaccine doses each state will receive each week.

Distributors will ship the majority of Wisconsin's first allocation to local health departments and larger health care systems in order to vaccinate health care professionals who are caring for sick individuals potentially ill due to H1N1. It is expected providers in Wisconsin will receive initial shipments the middle of next week. Initial shipments will be nasal-spray flu vaccine and the flu shot will be incorporated into later shipments. The CDC may be posting vaccine order information on its website, but it is anticipated that actual shipment and vaccine information may not be included in the data online.

Because manufacturers are still producing the vaccine, the CDC is recommending that the target groups listed below be the first to receive the H1N1 vaccine:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children less than 6 months of age
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Persons 25-64 years of age with conditions associated with higher risk of complications from influenza

Additional vaccine will be manufactured and distributed throughout the influenza season and the CDC is indicating there will eventually be enough vaccine for anyone who wishes to receive it.

DHS Activities

DHS established pre-registration for health care providers to place their vaccine orders with the state – and more than 2,000 pre-registered to receive the vaccine.

In addition, DHS has activated a call center for health professionals pertaining to vaccine ordering questions and information. Although October 12th has been designated a state-employee required furlough day, staff schedules will be adjusted to ensure that health professionals will be able to contact the call center on October 12th and calls will not go unattended. DHS staff scheduled for the call center on October 12th will take their required furlough day at an alternative time.

Partner Items

DHS is continuing its regular conference calls, webcasts and issued guidance to health professional statewide. In addition, DHS will be hosting a webcast for law enforcement and first responders on October 7th.

New Guidance Issued

New guidance issued by the CDC, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or DHS' Division of Public Health is available online at <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/>. Items recently published include:

- H1N1 Asthma Information for Patients and Parents
- H1N1 Guide for Community and Faith-Based Organizations

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