



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

H1N1 Situation Report

October 7, 2009 at 12:00 Hours

Overview

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report 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 and calling their health care provider first rather than going directly to the ER or urgent care for treatment.

H1N1 Surveillance

Currently, Wisconsin is experiencing elevated flu activity in most areas of the state, with cases reported from 48 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. 99% of all the circulating influenza viruses have been confirmed as H1N1. Flu activity is currently higher than what is normally seen at this time of the year.

DHS has not yet seen the type of week-to-week community escalation that occurred in the spring, however, in the Southern United States – where schools opened in August – they are experiencing escalating outbreaks that we could very well see here in Wisconsin.

No H1N1 viruses in the state have been found to be resistant to antiviral medications. Since September 1, 2009, Wisconsin has had 17 hospitalizations and 1 death. There have been 9 deaths statewide since the first H1N1 cases were seen in Wisconsin this spring.

School Closures

The Wisconsin Dells School District announced on Tuesday October 6th that they would be closing five schools due to increased influenza like illness (ILI). Schools will reopen on Monday October 12th. Wisconsin Dells High School had 170 out of 587 students out sick on Monday October 5th, and 180 students out sick on Tuesday October 6th, and many more at school who were showing ILI symptoms. An adjacent middle school and grade school also had significant illness with 10% of each schools student body out sick.

CDC and DHS continue to stress that school closure should be used as a last resort. However, if there are a significant number of sick students in one school or a number of schools that share facilities or buses, a limited closure may be the best option. In most cases those decisions are made by the local health department in consultation with the school, the school district and DHS.

Parents are reminded that keeping sick children home from school until 24 hours after they are free of fever (100°F [37.8°C] or greater) without the aid of medication is the safest way to prevent the spread of any illness. DHS is also encouraging parents to have a pre-designated plan for caring for a sick child at home for the duration of a school exclusion period, which for most children will be 3 to 5 days. Wisconsin businesses are also encouraged to adopt similar plans with their employees.

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H1N1 Vaccine Update

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.

Wisconsin was among the first states to submit vaccine orders to CDC last week and providers in the state began receiving those shipments on Monday. Initial shipments were limited and only consisted of nasal mist which is only recommended for those between the ages of 2 and 49 years of age and is not recommended for pregnant women or those with asthma.

Wisconsin was allocated a total of 46,000 doses which were targeted toward larger hospitals, clinic systems and public health agencies so they could begin to vaccinate the health care workforce. Approximately 80 providers received shipments this week.

DHS has yet to receive a total allocation for next week's vaccine shipment, however, it is expected to be larger and it is expected to include the injectable form of the vaccine. These shipments will again be targeted toward the health care workforce and will be expanded to include smaller hospitals, clinics and public health agencies who did not receive vaccine in the first week's shipment. There are an estimated 250,000 health care workers and emergency first responders in Wisconsin.

After the week of October 11th, vaccine will start to be targeted toward public health agencies and private health care providers and toward the later part of October public vaccination clinics and school based clinics will begin to occur around the state.

DHS Activities

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.

DHS is also working with 2-1-1 Wisconsin to develop a website and phone system where people across the state can find information on local vaccination clinics over the phone or the internet.

Partner Items

DHS is continuing its regular conference calls, webcasts and issued guidance to health professional statewide.

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