

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

October 9, 2009

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE

### Update on Massachusetts

#### State Receives First H1N1 Vaccine Shipments

The first shipments of H1N1 vaccine have arrived in the Commonwealth. These quantities represent 3% of the total amount of H1N1 vaccine expected this flu season. Vaccine and supplies are being sent directly to providers; however, DPH will be in weekly contact with providers to monitor vaccine arrivals and usage. Additional shipments are expected to arrive every week throughout the flu season. Individuals who are in a [high-priority group](#) should contact their health care provider to find out when they can schedule an appointment to get the H1N1 vaccine. Public health and school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics are expected in November and December. All clinics will be posted at <http://flu.masspro.org> as they are scheduled.

#### [Flu.Gov](#) Website

Throughout the flu season, DPH will continue to post the latest information and updates on their [blog](#) as well as at [www.mass.gov/flu](http://www.mass.gov/flu). Another useful resource is the US Department of Health and Human Services website, [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov). The site provides up to date information and guidance on seasonal and H1N1 flu including [vaccine myths vs. facts](#) and a flu [self-evaluation tool](#) which can help reduce trips to the doctor's office or emergency room. Volunteers are encouraged to explore the website and to bookmark it for future reference.

#### Influenza Report

As of October 8, 2009, 1414 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts. Two cases have been confirmed since the last update on October 1, 2009. Since September 28, the official start of the 2008-2009 flu season, there have been 22,991 additional reports of influenza, including both seasonal influenza and influenza of unknown type. School-aged individuals (5-18 years) continue to be primarily affected by H1N1, with over 63% of cases

