

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

January 15, 2010



VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Update on Massachusetts

H1N1 Activity

This week's influenza report shows that influenza-like illness in the state continues to decline and has now reached a level that is slightly below what is expected for this time of year. While this is certainly good news, DPH continues to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to get vaccinated. Remember, while there may not be large numbers of people with influenza right now, another wave in the weeks and months ahead is possible. To find flu clinics in your area visit <http://flu.masspro.org>. As of January 14, 2010, 1957 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 2009. To read this week's complete influenza report [click here](#).

H1N1 Vaccine Availability

To date 3.66 million doses of H1N1 vaccine have been allocated in Massachusetts. *There is now sufficient H1N1 vaccine for all providers to offer H1N1 vaccine to anyone who wants it.* Providers seeking H1N1 vaccine should request doses when they do their weekly reporting of doses administered. Providers who are not registered with the Massachusetts H1N1 Vaccine Program can do so by going to <http://www.mass.gov/dph/h1n1registration>.

For questions about requesting H1N1 vaccine or reporting doses administered, please call the H1N1 Vaccine help Desk at 617-983-6898.

National Influenza Vaccination Week

Governor Deval Patrick, United States Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh, and Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary, Dr. JudyAnn Bigby all attended a vaccination week event today at the State House in Boston where they received their H1N1 shots and emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated.

In addition, DPH reported that surveillance systems indicate that members of racial and ethnic minorities bore a disproportionate burden of H1N1 disease and complications. In response, DPH plans to launch special initiatives to reach populations who are more vulnerable to adverse outcomes of H1N1 influenza including expanding its "Flu Facts" media campaign to speak directly to African American and Latino audiences.

CDC Update

Overall flu activity in the United States decreased during the week of January 3-9, 2010. No states reported widespread influenza activity; a decline of one state from last week. Nine states continue to report regional influenza activity. They are: Alabama, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Virginia. Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses.

The CDC provides [updated 2009 H1N1 vaccine supply and distribution data](#) daily at around 12:00pm on their website.

In addition, the CDC posted a number of new and updated resources on its website <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. Included are:

Q & A: Fraud and Abuse Related to 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/h1n1_fraud_abuse.htm

New: Open Letter to the American People about the H1N1 Flu Vaccine
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/open_letter_h1n1_vaccine.htm

Updated: Influenza and Pneumonia Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30, 2009 - January 9, 2010
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/updates/us/#totalcases>

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