

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BUREAU FLU ADVISORY

January 22, 2010

VOLUNTEER UPDATE



Update on Massachusetts

H1N1 Activity

Influenza-like illness activity remains low and is consistent with what is expected at this time of year. DPH continues to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to get vaccinated. To find flu clinics in your area visit <http://flu.masspro.org>. As of January 21, 2010, 1977 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 2009. To read this week's complete influenza report [click here](#).

Vaccine Availability

A number of pharmaceutical distributors report having **seasonal influenza vaccine** available for purchase. For contact information and to see which formulations are available, go to: http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats_09_10.xls.

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.

Commonwealth Renews Efforts to Promote H1N1 Vaccination in Heavily Impacted Communities

The Patrick-Murray Administration recently announced that it will make \$1 million in federal funding available to community-based organizations to increase H1N1 vaccination rates in the populations they serve. The funding is part of an effort to address disparities in the impact of H1N1-related illness in the state, which has taken a more severe toll on communities of color. Recent findings released by the Department of Public Health show that people of color particularly Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians get the H1N1 flu more often than Whites and that they have higher rates of hospitalization and death. The funding has been made available by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Details on which organizations have been funded for this purpose will be released in the coming weeks. [Read the entire press release here](#).

CDC Update

Overall flu activity in the United States decreased again slightly during the week of January 10-16, 2010. Though flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or seasonal flu viruses, may rise and fall, it is expected to continue for several more months. CDC recommends influenza vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against the flu. Because supplies of 2009 H1N1 vaccines are ample, CDC is now encouraging everyone to get vaccinated, including people 65 years and older.

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:

Updated: 2009 H1N1 Flu: International Situation
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/updates/international/>

Interim Results: Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccination Coverage --- United States, October--December 2009
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5902a4.htm>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Influenza Activity Update
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5902a3.htm?s_cid=mm5902a3_e

Updated: Laboratory Confirmed Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30 2009 to January 16, 2010
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/updates/us/#totalcases>

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