

# Eastern Michigan University – Emergency Management 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Outbreak Situation Report

## Situation Update #14

Date: 28 September 2009

### Time: 1:00pm EDT

Evidence from multiple outbreak sites demonstrates that the H1N1 pandemic virus has rapidly established itself and is now the dominant influenza strain in most parts of the world. The pandemic will persist in the coming months as the virus continues to move through susceptible populations. Preliminary epidemiologic data on the H1N1 flu suggests significant risk among those in the college setting.

[Novel H1N1 Influenza](#) (referred to as "swine flu" early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6 in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

[Pandemic Influenza](#) is flu that causes a global outbreak of serious illness that spreads easily from person to person, such as novel H1N1 influenza.

[Seasonal Influenza](#) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Seasonal influenza outbreaks occur every year.

### Eastern Michigan University

<http://www.emich.edu/uhs/swineflu/>

Eastern Michigan University has initiated comprehensive H1N1 prevention and preparedness activities to minimize impacts caused by both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus. EMU's initiatives include providing up-to-date information to faculty, staff, students and parents; contingency planning for continuity of operations in the event of an outbreak; lessons in proper hand washing; and, offering informational meetings for students and employees.

### Key Activities

- EMU distributed 2,500 bottles of hand sanitizer and informational letter during student move-in day (September 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Parents of first-year students, age 24 or younger, received a letter outlining medical services, including information about available vaccines, offered by University Health Services.
- Informational letters were distributed to the following target populations:
  - All EMU students
  - Residence hall students and university apartment tenants
  - New Student Orientation Student Assistants
  - International students
  - Greek community members
  - Faculty and Academic Affairs Administrators
  - Parents of students
- Communications are scheduled to go out to:
  - EMU employees
  - Student athletes
  - Children's Institute families

### Surveillance

EMU's influenza surveillance is a collaborative effort between federal, state and local health departments and other agencies. The campus surveillance effort includes:

- Finding out when and where influenza activity is occurring
  - Tracking influenza-related illness
  - Tracking what influenza viruses are circulating
  - Measuring the impact influenza is having on the EMU campus community
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- As of 9/28/09, EMU has documented 4 diagnosed and 22 probable cases of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI). Influenza-Like Illness case definition = fever (> or = 100 degrees F) AND cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza).
  - The Michigan Department of Community Health has reported 416 cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) in Washtenaw County as of September 22<sup>th</sup>. All confirmed cases in the past 2 weeks in Washtenaw County were in college students. No deaths due to 2009 H1N1 virus have been reported in Washtenaw County to date.
  - EMU is participating with the American College Health Association in a national surveillance network to report data on a weekly basis that is specific to campus communities. ACHA Pandemic Influenza Surveillance - Influenza Like Illness (ILI) in Colleges and Universities [http://www.acha.org/ILI\\_Surveillance.cfm](http://www.acha.org/ILI_Surveillance.cfm)

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## Vaccination

The EMU Snow Health Center is currently providing seasonal flu vaccination services to the campus community. For further information, call University Health Services @734.487.1122. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. However, a vaccine is currently in production, and initial doses of this vaccine are expected to become available for the public later in the fall.

- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine when it first becomes available:
  - Pregnant women because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated;
  - Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated;
  - Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients;
  - All people from 6 months through 24 years of age;
  - Children from 6 months through 18 years of age because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread;
  - Young adults 19 through 24 years of age because we have seen many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population; and,
  - Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

## Campus Community Mitigation

Community mitigation includes such measures as social distancing (e.g., cancelling events with large crowds, school and daycare closures, etc.) and targeted use of antiviral medications. Isolation and treatment are all effective measures in preventing the spread of influenza. Isolation refers to the separation of persons who have a specific infectious illness from those who are healthy by restricting movement and interaction to stop or minimize the spread of that particular illness.

- EMU has installed hand sanitizer along with informational signage at high traffic/contact locations including the student center, computing centers, Halle Library and other locations.
- A Web site listing action steps for preventing the spread of the flu and an FAQs page providing current information and updates. The site can be accessed at <http://www.emich.edu/uhs/swineflu/>
- **CDC recommends that individuals with influenza-like illness remain at home and away from other people until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8° C] or greater), or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.**

## Communications

Guidance to the campus community about how to protect themselves is an essential component of influenza prevention. When health risks are uncertain, people need information about what is known and unknown, as well as interim guidance to formulate decisions to help protect their health and the health of others.

- EMU is preparing the campus community for the H1N1 influenza pandemic by developing messages and materials to promote preparedness and prevention. The university is employing public outreach efforts to the campus community through its website, EMU Hotline, informational letters and posters, public outreach to various groups on campus, and by sharing information with the media.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> press release on EMU H1N1 preparations and interviews with local radio and television outlets.
- September 4<sup>th</sup> letter from Provost to faculty on H1N1 prevention & preparedness.

## World Health Organization (WHO)

**World Health Organization** <http://www.who.int/en/> [On June 11, WHO raised the pandemic alert level from Phase 5 to Phase 6 indicating that an influenza pandemic is underway.]

As of 20 September 2009, there have been more than 300,000 laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1, 3917 deaths, in 191 countries and territories reported to WHO. As more and more countries have stopped counting individual cases, particularly of milder illness, the case count is significantly lower than the actual number of cases that have occurred.

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The United States has reported continued increases in activity above the seasonal baseline for the last 2 to 3 weeks, primarily in the southeast but now also appearing in the upper Midwest and the Northeast. The increases in ILI activity have been accompanied by increases in laboratory isolations of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009 in most of these areas.

**Pandemia (H1N1) 2009: Interactive Map:** <http://new.paho.org/hq/images/atlas/en/atlas.html>

### **CDC**

**CDC U.S. Human Swine Influenza Infection website:** <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>

**CDC Guidance:** <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>

Note: The United States changed its surveillance system this week to include Pandemic (H1N1) 2009-related cases and deaths within the routine influenza surveillance. The US will no longer be publishing cases or deaths associated with the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

As of September 25th, the following influenza activity was reported:

- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness are higher than what is expected during this time of year and have increased for six consecutive weeks now. This is very unusual for this time of year.
- Total influenza hospitalization rates for adults and children are similar to or lower than seasonal influenza hospitalization rates depending on age group, but are higher than expected for this time of year.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report was low and within the bounds of what is expected at this time of year. However, 49 pediatric deaths related to 2009 H1N1 flu have been reported to CDC since April 2009, including three deaths reported this week.
- Twenty-six states are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington. Any reports of widespread influenza activity in September are very unusual.
- Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses.

### **Internet Resources**

#### **Washtenaw County H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza Information**

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public\\_health/school\\_portal/H1N1%20Influenza](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/school_portal/H1N1%20Influenza)

#### **Michigan Department of Community Health**

[www.michigan.gov/swineflu](http://www.michigan.gov/swineflu)

#### **Google Map H1N1 Flu Tracking (Colleges and Universities)**

<http://tinyurl.com/HigherEdH1N1Map-Sep09>

<http://tinyurl.com/HigherEdH1N1Map>

#### **U.S. Government Influenza information**

<http://flu.gov/psa/index.html>