

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

## Situation Update #20

**Date: 18 November 2009**

### Time: 2:00pm EDT

On October 24, 2009, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic a National Emergency to facilitate our ability to respond to the pandemic by enabling – if warranted – the waiver of certain statutory Federal requirements for medical treatment facilities. In particular, this proclamation is aimed at providing HHS the ability to waive legal requirements that could otherwise limit the ability of our nation's health care system to respond to the surge of patients with the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus.

As experts expected, H1N1 flu is moving rapidly throughout the country and the majority of states now have widespread influenza activity. This declaration gives authority for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to waive certain regulatory requirements for healthcare facilities in response to the ongoing pandemic. Specifically, healthcare facilities will be able to submit waivers to establish alternate care sites, and modified patient triage protocols, patient transfer procedures and other actions that occur when they fully implement disaster operations plans.

### 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.

### Surveillance

- From 11/8-11/14/09, EMU documented 9 new cases of Influenza-like Illness on campus (age 17-24: 8 cases, age 25+: 1 case. There were no cases hospitalized.
  - 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).
- Reports of lab-confirmed novel H1N1 cases (swine flu) and respiratory illness rates in schools decreased slightly for the last week. Most cases continue to be diagnosed in persons under age 25 years, but all ages are being affected. 12 hospitalizations and no deaths were reported for the week ending 11/7/09. The highest number of hospitalizations has been in 18 - 24 year olds, followed by 25 - 49 year olds. However, 0-4 year olds and 65+ are being hospitalized at a disproportionate rate to being diagnosed with influenza.
- 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):
  - In the last weekly period of influenza activity, a total of 8,951 new ILI cases were reported (15 hospitalizations) among campus populations totaling nearly 3.1 million. Ninety-eight percent of 265 colleges and universities reported new ILI cases, compared to 97 percent reporting new cases the prior week. The nationwide attack rate was 29.0 cases/10,000 students, one percent higher than the prior week's rate. Consistent with CDC reports, flu is widespread nationally on college campuses and fluctuation in disease activity varies significantly both on local and regional levels. Again, no deaths were observed among the reporting institutions for the period.

### Vaccination

Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines are in limited supply. Eastern Michigan University H1N1 vaccination clinics for this period are scheduled for:

- 11/18/09 - 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Nasal spray & injection. Eligibility: Children and adolescents ages 6 months - 16 years.
- 11/19/09 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Injection only. Eligibility: pregnant women; persons 17 - 64 years with underlying medical conditions; and, caregivers/contacts of children under 6 months, EMS or health care workers who are not eligible for nasal spray.

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- 11/19/09 - 1 - 3 p.m. Nasal spray. Eligibility: Those with no underlying medical conditions; persons age 2 - 24 years; caregivers/contacts of children under 6 months; and, EMS and health care workers with direct patient care.

Those needing flu vaccines are encouraged to call the health center at 734.487.1122 before coming to make sure the vaccine is available.

Overall, Washtenaw County has received approximately 30,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine; on average about 80 percent is going to hospitals, universities and community health care providers for their priority patients and staff. Public Health is using the remaining 20 percent for mass vaccination clinics for priority groups.

- The Washtenaw County Public Health Department has scheduled a H1N1 vaccination clinic on Sunday, Nov 22nd at the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Convocation Center. The priorities now include all individuals from 6 months through 24 years of age and individuals 25 to 64 years old who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza-related complications.
- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that certain groups of the population receive the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine:
  - Pregnant women;
  - Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age;
  - Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient care;
  - 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; 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 13 November 2009, worldwide more than 206 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 6250 deaths.

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As many countries have stopped counting individual cases, particularly of milder illness, the case count is likely to be significantly lower than the actual number of cases that have occurred. WHO is actively monitoring the progress of the pandemic through frequent consultations with the WHO Regional Offices and member states and through monitoring of multiple sources of data.

The winter influenza season, which began unusually early across much of the Northern Hemisphere, shows early signs of peaking in parts of North America but is intensifying across much of Europe and Central and Eastern Asia.

In North America, Canada reported sharp increases in rates of influenza-like-illness (ILI), detections of pandemic H1N1 virus, and school outbreaks over the past three weeks as pandemic activity continues to spread west to east. In the United States, influenza transmission remains geographically widespread and intense but largely unchanged since the previous reporting week; rates of hospitalizations among persons aged 0-4 years, 5-17 years, and 18-49 years have now exceeded those seen during recent previous influenza seasons. Disease activity may have peaked in the earlier affected southern and south eastern parts of the United States. In Mexico, influenza activity remains geographically widespread with a significant wave of cases reported since early September, most notably from central and southern regions.

**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/>

As of November 13, 2009, a review of the key indicators found that influenza activity continued to increase in the United States from the previous week. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) nationally decreased this week over last week. This is the second week of national decreases in ILI after four consecutive weeks of sharp increases. (All regions but one showed declines in ILI. Region I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT) continues to show sharp increases in ILI activity. While ILI declined overall nationally, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness remain higher than what is seen during the peak of many regular flu seasons.
- Total influenza hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu continue to climb and remain higher than expected for this time of year. Hospitalization rates continue to be highest in younger populations with the highest hospitalization rate reported in children 0-4 years old.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report continues to increase and has been higher than what is expected for six weeks now. In addition, 35 flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week: 26 of these deaths were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1; eight were influenza A viruses, but were not subtyped; and one was an influenza B virus. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 156 laboratory-confirmed pediatric 2009 H1N1 deaths, one influenza B death, and another 23 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but the flu virus subtype was not determined.
- Forty-six states are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time; a decline of two states over last week. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. This many reports of widespread activity at this time of year are unprecedented during seasonal flu.
- Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

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**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>