

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

Situation Update #22

Date: 2 December 2009

Time: 3:00pm EDT

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

Michigan Surveillance: Flu activity continues decreasing; hospitalizations and deaths still elevated.

National Surveillance: Nationwide flu activity decreased slightly.

International Surveillance: The early arriving winter influenza season continues to intensify across parts of North America and much of Europe.

- Reports of lab-confirmed novel H1N1 cases (swine flu) and respiratory illness rates in schools decreased again for the last reporting period in Washtenaw County, but levels remain near peak of previous flu seasons. As of November 19th, Washtenaw County Public Health officials confirmed the first local death from H1N1. The individual was an adult who did not have any significant underlying medical condition. Statewide, there have been 37 confirmed H1N1 deaths in Michigan residents since September 1, 2009.
- 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:
 - In this weekly period of influenza activity, a total of 3,933 new ILI cases were reported (seven hospitalizations) among campus populations totaling nearly 3 million. Ninety percent of 243 colleges and universities reported new ILI cases, compared to 95 percent reporting new cases the prior week. The nationwide attack rate was 13.4 cases/10,000 students, 37 percent lower than the prior week's rate. All but seven states report significant declines in disease activity from November 14th through November 20th. No deaths were reported during the last week.

Vaccination

- Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines are in limited supply. Those needing flu vaccines are encouraged to call University Health Services at 734.487.1122 before coming to make sure the vaccine is available.
- Washtenaw County Public Health Department has confirmed its next H1N1 vaccination clinic for priority groups. The date is Saturday, Dec 5th at Manchester High School, located at 20500 Dutch Drive, Manchester MI 48158.

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/>

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

- **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 3rd press release on EMU H1N1 preparations and interviews with local radio and television outlets.
- September 4th 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.]

- Worldwide more than 207 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 7820 deaths.
- In temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, the early arriving winter influenza season continues to be intense across parts of North America and much of Europe. In North America, the Caribbean islands and a limited number of European countries there are signs that disease activity peaked.
- In the United States and Canada, influenza transmission remains very active and geographically widespread. In the United States, disease activity appears to have peaked in all areas of the country. In Canada, influenza activity remains similar but number of hospitalizations and deaths is increasing.
- In Europe, widespread and increasing transmission of pandemic influenza virus was observed across much of the continent and most countries that were not yet experiencing elevated ILI activity in the last few weeks, have seen a rapid increase in ILI. Very high activity is seen in Sweden, Norway, Moldova and Italy. Over 99% of subtyped influenza A viruses in Europe were pandemic H1N1 2009. Impact on health care services is severe in Albania and Moldova. Some countries seem to have peaked already: Belgium, Bulgaria, Belarus, Ireland, Luxemburg, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine and Iceland.
- In East Asia, influenza transmission remains active. Intense influenza activity continues to be observed in Mongolia but has peaked already. In Japan, influenza activity remains stably elevated, but may be decreasing slightly in populated urban areas. ILI activity in India and Nepal and Sri Lanka has increased.
- In the tropical zone of the Americas and Asia, influenza transmission remains variable but low in many countries. In the tropical areas of Central and South America, most countries continue to report declining influenza activity, with the exception of Ecuador and Venezuela.

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/>

During the last reporting week (week 46), influenza activity decreased in some key indicators and increased in others. Overall influenza activity remains high for this time of year. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) nationally decreased sharply this week over last week with all regions showing declines in ILI. This is the fourth consecutive week of national decreases in ILI after four consecutive weeks of sharp increases. While ILI has declined, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness remain high.

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

- Influenza hospitalization rates 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 be higher than expected for this time of year. This proportion has remained elevated for eight weeks now. In addition, 35 flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week: 27 of these deaths were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1; 7 were influenza A viruses, but were not subtyped and one death was associated with a seasonal influenza A (H1) virus. The one death associated with seasonal influenza A (H1) virus infection reported this week actually occurred in March, during the 2008-09 season. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 234 laboratory-confirmed pediatric deaths: 198 due to 2009 H1N1, 35 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but the flu virus subtype was not determined, and one pediatric death associated with a seasonal influenza virus. (Laboratory-confirmed deaths are thought to represent an undercount of the actual number. CDC has provided estimates about the number of 2009 H1N1 cases and related hospitalizations and deaths.
- Thirty-two states are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time; a decline of 11 states from last week. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia).
- 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.

Internet Resources

Washtenaw County H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza Information

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/school_portal/H1N1%20Influenza

Michigan Department of Community Health

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>

The Department of Labor has issued questions and answers on pandemic flu and the [Fair Labor Standards Act](#), and the [Family Medical Leave Act](#).

The Chronicle of Higher Education explained [health and safety procedures for study abroad programs during pandemic outbreaks](#).