

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

Situation Update #23

Date: 9 December 2009

Time: 4:00pm 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

- In the last week, EMU has reported 4 cases of Influenza Like Illness on campus.
- Countywide, reports of lab-confirmed novel H1N1 cases (swine flu) and respiratory illness rates in schools continue to decrease, but levels remain near peak of previous flu seasons.
- 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 1,415 new ILI cases were reported (one hospitalization) among campus populations totaling over 2.7 million. Seventy-six percent of 232 colleges and universities reported new ILI cases, compared to 71 percent reporting new cases the prior week. The nationwide attack rate was 5.2 cases/10,000 students, 27 percent higher than the prior week's rate. The increase in activity this week simply reflects the return of students to our campuses from Thanksgiving. This reported rate of disease activity is consistent with the decreasing trends nationwide.

Vaccination

- As of December 8th, The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in partnership with the 45 local health departments will expand H1N1 influenza vaccine to all Michigan residents. While all residents will be eligible for vaccine, health officials continue to strongly encourage the previous target group including pregnant women, people who live with or care for children less than 6 months of age, all people 6 months to 24 years, and people 25 to 64 years with chronic medical conditions to get vaccinated. In addition to being vaccinated, Michigan residents can help stop the spread of the virus by washing hands thoroughly and often; covering mouths when sneezing or coughing; and staying home from work or school if sick.
- EMU Health Services will be offering clinics on 12/8, 12/9, and 12/10. 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 will offer H1N1 vaccinations on Friday, Dec 11th at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Convocation Center located at 799 N. Hewitt, Ypsilanti MI 48197. Vaccinations will begin at 1:00 pm and continue until 7:00 pm, or until the last person with a wristband is served.

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/>

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- **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.

December 2, 2009: DCH Warns Residents to Avoid E-mail Scam on H1N1 Vaccine

LANSING - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (OCISO) Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) have received reports of fraudulent emails referencing a CDC-sponsored State Vaccination Program for the H1N1 virus. The messages request that users create a personal H1N1 "Vaccination Profile" on the cdc.gov Web site. The message then states that anyone who has reached the age of 18 has to have his/her personal "Vaccination Profile" on the cdc.gov site. The CDC has NOT implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration on www.cdc.gov. These emails are a scam and residents are asked to ignore and delete them. Users that click on the embedded link in the email are at risk of having a malicious code installed on their system. The OCISO reminds users to take the following steps to reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack:

- * Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages.
- * Use caution when visiting un-trusted Web sites.
- * Use caution when entering personal information online.

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 at least 8,768 deaths.
- 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.
- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, the early arriving winter influenza season continues to intensify across central Europe and in parts of central, eastern, and southern Asia. Disease activity has peaked and is declining in North America and has either recently peaked or is currently peaking in much of western and northern Europe.
- In both Canada and the United States, influenza virus circulation remains active and geographically widespread, however, disease activity appears to have peaked in the past 3 to 4 weeks. In the United States, deaths due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I mortality) continued to increase past the epidemic threshold for the past 8 weeks and cumulative rates of hospitalizations for the current influenza season have exceeded rates seen in recent seasons among all age groups except those aged ≥ 65.
- In Europe, widespread and intense transmission of pandemic influenza virus continued to be observed across most of the continent. In western and northern Europe the peak of disease activity has passed in Belgium, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway and parts of the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Wales); activity may be peaking or plateauing in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Sweden and Denmark. Influenza activity continues to increase in much of Central Europe in the region between the Baltic and Balkan countries and from Germany to Romania. In Eastern Europe, recent peaks or plateaus in disease activity have also been observed in Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova. In the Russian Federation, influenza activity remains active and intense in some regions, with an overall increasing trend. A moderate impact on the healthcare system has been reported in parts of Northern and Eastern Europe. Over 99% of subtyped influenza A viruses in Europe were pandemic H1N1 2009.
- In Western and Central Asia, influenza transmission remains active. Disease activity continues to increase in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Iraq, while activity may have peaked in Israel, Jordan, and Afghanistan.

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- In East Asia, increasing ILI** or respiratory disease activity has been reported in Southern China and Japan. A recent decline in activity has been observed in Northern China. In South and Southeast Asia, influenza activity continues to increase in the north-western parts of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia, while activity in the rest of region remain low.
 - In the tropical zone of Central and South America and the Caribbean, influenza transmission remains geographically widespread but overall disease activity has been declining except for focal areas of increasing activity in Jamaica, Venezuela, and Ecuador.
 - In Africa, pandemic H1N1 2009 virus continues to be isolated from all parts of the continent, and there is evidence of continued co-circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and seasonal H3N2 viruses.
 - In the temperate region of the southern hemisphere, little pandemic influenza activity has been reported.
- **Abbreviations: influenza-like-illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI), and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)

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, 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 again this week over last week. This is the fifth consecutive week of national decreases in ILI after four consecutive weeks of sharp increases. Eight of ten regions continue to report ILI activity above what is expected for this time of year. Two regions (Region 6 and Region 10) are reporting little ILI activity. While ILI has declined, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness still remain elevated nationally.
- Influenza hospitalization rates have decreased across all age groups but remain higher than expected for this time of year. Though declining, hospitalization rates continue to be highest in children 0-4 years old.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report declined over the previous week, but continues to be higher than expected for this time of year. This is the ninth consecutive week that the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) has been above the epidemic threshold. In addition, 17 flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week: 12 of these deaths were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1 and 5 were associated with influenza A viruses, but were not subtyped. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 251 laboratory-confirmed pediatric deaths: 210 due to 2009 H1N1, 40 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.
- Twenty-five states are reporting widespread influenza activity; a decline of 7 states from last week. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. Seventeen states are reporting regional influenza activity, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and six states reported local influenza activity, and Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states reported sporadic influenza activity.
- 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>

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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.