

MaineHealth

H1N1 Update Newsletter
February 5, 2010

Welcome to the MaineHealth H1N1 Update Newsletter
A Publication of the MaineHealth H1N1 Workgroup

Maine CDC Update:

Nationally, influenza activity is reported to be sporadic in most states, with no states reporting widespread activity. Almost all of the influenza viruses identified to date 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. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#whomap>.

A total of 11 people in Maine have been hospitalized the past month with H1N1, including 4 children. Of these hospitalizations, 4 included an admission to an intensive care unit, including 1 child and 2 young adults. Only 1 of the 11 had been vaccinated at least a few days prior to illness and only 2 had received early antiviral medicines.

There has been another death due to H1N1, bringing the total to 19 reported since August. This death occurred in an adult in the 25-49 age group in southern Maine. All deaths related to H1N1 in Maine have occurred among people with underlying health conditions.

Vaccine Supply: Maine has received over 900,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine, so providers should encourage everyone to be vaccinated. Approximately 500 health care providers have received vaccine supply and a variety of free flu clinics continue to be offered across Maine. Health care providers who treat people at high risk for complications from influenza (such as those with underlying conditions, pregnant women, young children, and those older than 64) are urged to vaccinate those patients and to treat with antiviral medicines at the onset of symptoms. Even those not at high-risk for complications from influenza should be considered for vaccination because either they can suffer complications or can infect those who are at higher risk for complications.

Vaccine can still be found in a number of public clinics, including many that are offering it for free. These can be located by calling 211 or by visiting www.maine-flu.gov. The free clinics are listed in bold font on the Public Influenza Vaccine Clinic Calendar.

Important Resources:

- www.maine flu.gov: the most comprehensive information available regarding clinics, vaccine supply and other healthcare provider information
- **Health Care Providers' Clinic Consultation Line: 1-800-821-5821**, available 24 hours per day
- **Public Information and Referral Line: 211**, available now 8 am – 8 pm 7 days per week (note that this has changed from a Maine CDC phone number)

Publisher:

If you have additional questions or suggestions for this newsletter, please feel free to contact the publisher.

Jackie Cawley, DO

Senior Medical Director for Clinical Integration

MaineHealth

541-7521

cawlej@mainehealth.org