

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) will distribute the H1N1 Status Update Report weekly. Please forward this update to other H1N1 response and planning partners.

Surveillance

Epidemiological Data:

Current data shows that the virus is widespread throughout Pennsylvania. Over the past several weeks, influenza like illness (ILI) activity has increased throughout most areas of the commonwealth.

Among confirmed cases since September 1, 2009, the age and gender breakdown is as follows:

Age Range Most Affected:	Percent of Total Cases:	Gender:	Percent of Total Cases:
0 - 4	7.4%	<i>Male</i>	50%
5 - 9	16.4%	<i>Female</i>	47%
10 - 14	25.6%	<i>Not Specified</i>	3%
15 - 19	14.7%		100.0%
20 - 29	16.4%		
30 - 39	6.8%		
40 - 49	6.1%		
50 - 59	4.5%		
60+	2.1%		
	100.0%		

(Updated October 30, 2009)

Hospitals Limiting Visitors:

Some hospitals across the state have instituted limits on visitor ages and/or visiting hours. This measure is important to limit potential exposure to patients who are at heightened risk of complications to both H1N1 and seasonal flu. The decision to limit visitors is made by each facility or health system.

Vaccine/Antivirals

Vaccine:

The following chart shows vaccine flow to Pennsylvania. At this point, the commonwealth has received almost 1.1 million fewer doses than originally projected.

Vaccine For PA	# of Doses Allocated	# of Projected Doses to be Received	Difference
Overall Total:	788,600	1,880,266	(1,091,666)

The following is a breakdown of vaccine allocated thus far (through October 27, 2009)

<u>Provider Category:</u>	<u>Doses Allocated:</u>
School/University	221,000
Pediatrician	189,700
Hospital	177,100
Primary Care	146,700
Federally Qualified Health Center/Rural Health Center	23,900
Public Health	20,000
OB/Gyn	5,700
Other	4,500
TOTAL:	788,600

H1N1 and Target Groups:

The PA DOH continues to recommend that providers adhere to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidance when targeting groups for vaccine administration including: pregnant women; persons six months to 24 years old; healthcare providers and EMS personnel; parents, household members or caregivers of children under 6 months; and those under 65 years of age with certain underlying medical conditions.

When providers receive fewer doses of vaccine than they need to immunize all of their clients, they may further narrow the target groups they wish to serve. Additionally, all presentations of the vaccine have specific age ranges that each may be administered to, which may also determine exactly whom a provider can vaccinate at any given time.

The PA DOH is allocating all vaccine as soon as it becomes available. As more vaccine becomes available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for providers to order, all persons in the priority groups, and ultimately the general population, will have the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Mass Vaccination Sites:

The PA DOH is working with key partners, including county Emergency Management Agencies, to plan for vaccine administration clinics on a large scale for the general public. These clinics will be scheduled when vaccine becomes more readily available. The clinic dates, times, and locations will be made available through the media, on the www.H1N1inPA.com website, and by contacting 1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Communications

H1N1 Website:

The www.H1N1inPA.com website is updated frequently, so please visit daily for new information, links and options. Many questions are being asked regarding mass vaccination site locations. Linking to this function now provides viewers with an explanation of the

priority groups and as soon as the clinic times and dates are scheduled, the information will be posted here.

Media Campaign:

Anyone can now become a fan of Stopping H1N1inPA on Facebook and Twitter. Updates and information will be posted periodically and each contains a link to the www.H1N1inPA.com website.

Community Mitigation

Limiting Spread of Germs:

Community mitigation is crucial in slowing the spread of H1N1 through the fall. Community mitigation generally involves little or no money, but can offer substantial disease reduction. Strategies consist of basic, everyday approaches to limit the spread of germs, which include:



Items to Schools:

The hand sanitizer and tissues that were ordered for the commonwealth's public and private schools through a partnership between the PA DOH and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, are currently being distributed. All schools should have their supplies in hand by the end of this week. Should schools need Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the hand sanitizer, please visit <http://www.gojo.com/united-states/msds.aspx> to download the appropriate sheet for the product received.

General Interest

Presidential Declaration of National Emergency:

On October 24, 2009, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic to be a national emergency to facilitate the nation's ability to respond to the pandemic. This declaration was made with the purpose of allowing the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to exercise authority under section 1135 of

the Social Security Act to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and the HIPPA rules as necessary to respond to the pandemic. Requests by healthcare providers for waivers or modification may be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (as the state survey agency) or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Regional Office. Upon individual facility approval, 1135 waivers may allow healthcare institution greater ability to utilize alternate care locations and modified triage protocols. This may help healthcare facilities reduce overcrowding and wait time at traditional medical facilities and allow them to provide alternate options for those with ILI. Further information on the 1135 Waiver process can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1.

CDC Documents:

The CDC released many new guidance documents, toolkits, and informational pieces over the last several weeks. For those interested in printable handout materials, flyers and brochures, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/freeresources.htm.

Questions and Answers

For answers to these questions and more, please go to www.H1N1inPA.com and click on “frequently asked questions.”

Question: *Is there a vaccine shortage? I'm hearing this on the news.*

Answer: No. The perception of a shortage is caused by the vaccine being produced more slowly than originally anticipated. All indications are that ultimately, there will be adequate vaccine produced.

Question: *I have a family member at home who is sick with 2009 H1N1 flu. Should I go to work?*

Answer: Employees who are well but who have an ill family member at home with 2009 H1N1 flu can go to work as usual. These employees should monitor their health every day, and take precautions including covering their coughs and sneezes with a tissue and washing their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after they cough or sneeze. If they become ill, they should notify their supervisor and stay home.

Question: *How can I find out if a hospital is limiting visitors?*

Answer: Please contact the hospital or health system directly through their website or information line.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to submit those to the following email address: PADOH_H1N1@state.pa.us. Responses will be addressed in this document, as individual responses will not be possible.

If you have any specific questions to be answered more quickly, please call 1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).