

Flu Update

October 22, 2009

Washtenaw County Influenza Surveillance

- ****ALERT****: Most of the surveillance in Washtenaw County indicates we are currently reaching peak influenza activity.
- **Lab-confirmed cases**: Reports of confirmed influenza cases in Washtenaw residents increased sharply for the week ending October 17. All cases are influenza A and most have been sub-typed as H1N1. The age range of recent cases is 3 to 48 years, with 71% ages 5 to 24 years.
- **Hospitalizations/deaths**: Three new hospitalizations with confirmed influenza were reported in the week ending October 17. No deaths due to the 2009 H1N1 virus have been reported in Washtenaw County residents to date.
- **Local Universities**: UM and EMU reported low levels of influenza-like illness in students for the week ending October 17.
- **Washtenaw Schools and Childcare Centers**: Rates of respiratory illness increased dramatically for the week ending October 17. Several school districts are reporting absences near 20% in some buildings. No schools have been closed in Washtenaw County at this point.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

- The vaccine supply is currently about 30% of what was expected at this date. Limited amounts of nasal spray (FluMist) and multi-dose vials of flu shots are being allotted to Washtenaw County on a weekly basis. No pre-filled syringes (thimerosal free) are currently available.
- Until the H1N1 vaccine supply is more plentiful, the Health Department will be narrowing priority groups to those most at risk (per ACIP guidelines). These groups are:
 - pregnant women,
 - caregivers/contacts of children under 6 months,
 - children 6 months through 4 years,
 - children 5 – 18 years with underlying medical conditions, and
 - EMS and health care workers with direct patient contact
- Public Health is distributing vaccine to many Washtenaw providers this week in order to reach our highest risk populations as soon as possible.
- The Health Department will hold a free H1N1 vaccine clinic for those in the above priority groups at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) building on Tuesday, October 27 from 3pm – 9pm. (1819 S. Wagner Rd, Ann Arbor, 48103)
- School-based vaccine clinics for the above priority groups start on November 2nd. The tentative schedule will be posted on our website soon.

Antiviral Medication Availability

- Public Health will be distributing Tamiflu and Relenza from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to the 3 Meijer stores in Washtenaw County. All doses from the SNS are free of charge, and Meijer has the ability to compound. Pharmacy Solutions also has received antivirals from the SNS and can compound. Reichert and Tower (SJM) pharmacies also have antiviral medications from the SNS.

For local influenza information: www.ewashtenaw.org/flu