



## H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus  
September 23, 2009, 3 p.m.

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Local<sup>1</sup>, H1N1 predominant circulating strain

**Rhode Island<sup>2</sup>:** 0 hospitalized cases, 0 deaths

**National Report<sup>3</sup>:** 39 states with 4,569 hospitalized cases, 364 deaths

**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness):** Rhode Island: 1.17%, New England Region: 0.8%, Nation: 4.4%

### H1N1 flu vaccine update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not yet released any H1N1 vaccine. HEALTH will continue to communicate information about H1N1 vaccine availability to partners as it becomes available. HEALTH will continue to release Wednesday partner briefings throughout the 2009-2010 influenza season. Please be on alert for additional briefings as well over the course of the week. Please check <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/> for up-to-date information.

### H1N1 vaccination venues for target populations

HEALTH will work through multiple venues to administer the H1N1 vaccine to target groups this fall:

- Children aged 6 months to 5 years: pediatricians' offices
- Children grades K-12: school vaccination clinics
- Pregnant women: birthing hospitals, prenatal care providers' offices
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than 6 months: providers' offices, public clinics
- Healthcare workers and first responders with direct patient contact: hospital-based (Healthcare Service Regions) clinics
- Young adults aged 19 to 24 years: college/university clinics, public clinics

### H1N1 flu vaccine safety

HEALTH has created a set of frequently asked questions and answers related to H1N1 flu vaccine safety, which are posted on the website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/H1N1FluVaccineSafety.pdf>. To view questions and answers about H1N1 flu vaccine safety from the CDC, please see [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine\\_safety\\_qa.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety_qa.htm).

### When to call your doctor if you get the flu

In general, people at higher risk for flu-related complications and anyone concerned about his/her illness should consider calling their healthcare providers if they experience flu-like symptoms (fever plus cough or fever plus sore throat). For more information about when to call you doctor if you have the flu, please see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/WhenToCallYourDoctorIfYouGetTheFlu.pdf>.

### Emergency warning signs

Most people who get the flu will have mild symptoms and recover without needing medical attention. The following warning signs, however, require immediate medical attention:

In children:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing

<sup>1</sup> Surveillance systems indicate that influenza activity is increasing and circulating in one region in the state.

<sup>2</sup> Influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza and pneumonia-associated hospitalizations and deaths from August 30 – September 12, 2009

## **WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

- Bluish color on skin or around mouth and lips
- Dehydration (no tears, dried lips and mouth, not drinking enough fluids)
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and a worse cough
- Fever with a rash

In adults:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

### **Flu guidance for businesses and employers**

Flu.gov has developed guidance for businesses and employers to help them prepare for and respond to flu during the 2009-2010 season. This guidance includes:

- “Planning for 2009 H1N1 Influenza: A Preparedness Guide for Small Businesses”:  
<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/smallbiz.html>
- “Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers”:  
<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/toolkit.html>
- Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the 2009-2010 Influenza Season:  
<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/guidance.html>

### **Past partner briefings and regular news updates now available online**

Partners can access past partner briefings at <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>. On this page, partners with feed readers can also subscribe to receive H1N1 briefings as RSS feeds.

### **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>

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