



H1N1 Partner Briefing

Date: October 28, 2009
To: All Rhode Islanders
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Widespread¹, H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island²: 26 hospitalized cases, 1 death

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 2.3%, New England Region: 2.5%, Nation: 7.1%

Important reminders about school-based vaccination clinics

- Without a signed and dated H1N1 vaccination consent form, a child cannot be vaccinated in school. Consent forms should be returned to the schools that children attend, not to HEALTH. Consent forms, Vaccine Information Statements and an accompanying cover letter can be found in English and Spanish at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/>.
- Children can only be vaccinated in the schools that they attend.
- Children who are absent from school on the day that vaccines are given will not be vaccinated in the school-based vaccination program. These children will have to wait until the vaccine becomes available in pediatricians' offices or in public clinics.
- The school-based vaccination clinic schedule is subject to change. Any scheduling change will be posted on HEALTH's website (<http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/index.php>).
- Answers to many frequently asked questions about the school-based vaccination program can be found on HEALTH's website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsAboutTheSchoolBasedVaccinationProgramAndSchedule.pdf>.

Vaccination clinic training video to be broadcast

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) has prepared a School Clinic Training video for school administrators who will organize school-based vaccination clinics. It will air on Capitol TV (Channel 15) on October 29 at 11 a.m. and on October 30 at 6 a.m., 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. The video can also be viewed online (Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDE8RdgK1Ps>; Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzsBRP27Nsg>).

Vaccination policy for students in out-of-state schools

School-aged children who live in Rhode Island but who attend out-of-state private schools are not eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine from the Rhode Island inventory. These children may receive the vaccine in school clinics organized by the schools that they attend or in their Rhode Island pediatricians' or family practitioners' offices once enough vaccine arrives in these settings. Out-of-state residents who attend Rhode Island schools will be eligible to receive the vaccine in their schools from the Rhode Island inventory.

¹ Rhode Island reported Regional activity for the week of October 18 to October 24, 2009. Influenza is circulating in 5 regions of the state. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity from October 11 to October 17, 2009

Sick children should stay home

Parents and guardians are reminded to keep children at home when they are experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever and a cough or fever and a sore throat). Parents should monitor the symptoms of these children while they are home. Children should not return to regular activities until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Vaccination policy for pregnant women who see out-of-state OB/GYNs

Pregnant women should receive the H1N1 vaccine from the states where their providers practice. Pregnant women who live in Rhode Island but who see out-of-state OB/GYNs will be able to receive the vaccine from their out-of-state providers. Similarly, pregnant women who live out of state but who see Rhode Island OB/GYNs will be able to receive the H1N1 vaccine from the Rhode Island inventory.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived partner briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>