

Ulster County Weekly H1N1 Update - Summary Released: 23 –Oct 09

Note: Testing for the Influenza like Illness is not being conducted, by the State, for every person who has flu like symptoms, because the NYS Department of Health has chosen instead to monitor the prevalence of the disease through test sampling at designated medical practices and facilities around the state. For this reason, pinpointed local data is not available; however, there is statewide data to provide trend information at: <http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/>

- The overall level of flu activity is currently moderate and appears to be increasing when compared to last week
- The number of people hospitalized with flu is currently low and appears to be increasing when compared to last week.
- Health care providers in Ulster County are continuing to register with the NYS DOH in order to obtain H1N1 vaccine and provide vaccinations
- As of this time, H1N1 vaccine supply is far below potential demand; however, it is early in the “flu season” so this is not deemed a serious problem yet.
- Going forward, the Ulster County Health Department does not expect that there will be a shortage of the vaccine, however, at this point in time; exact availability and demand numbers are not predictable.
- The Ulster County Health Department will publicize the availability of vaccination clinics as soon as adequate vaccine supply is confirmed.

As more vaccine becomes available, the initial doses available will be given to five target groups. The priority groups established by the CDC to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- Pregnant women;
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel;
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants under six months of age;
- Children and young people ages six months through 24 years; and
- Persons age 25 through 64 years old who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for serious illness and influenza-related complications.

Flu symptoms are: fever, headaches, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches. If these symptoms are present, persons are advised to stay home, and seek immediate medical attention from your primary family care physician.

For additional information about H1N1 and updates, visit our website at:
www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health

Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory Update

10/23/09

Influenza Monitoring:

A comprehensive flu monitoring systems report is provided on the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) website at:

<http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/>

Testing for the Influenza like Illness is not being conducted for every person who has flu like symptoms. For this reason, local data is not available; however, there is statewide data to provide trend information. This statewide data relates to subtypes of the flu strains that are circulating, syndromic surveillance of Emergency Department visits for the flu, hospitalizations and deaths associated with both seasonal and H1N1 flu.

Statewide key findings reported by the NYS DOH flu monitoring systems for the week ending October 10, 2009 are as follows:

- The overall level of flu activity is currently moderate and appears to be increasing when compared to last week.
- The number of people hospitalized with flu is currently low and appears to be increasing when compared to last week.
- The number of people dying with flu in NYS (outside of NYC) is currently 1 reported this week.
- The total number of deaths associated with H1N1 flu reported in NYS (outside of NYC) since September 1, 2009, is 4.
- The total number of deaths associated with H1N1 flu reported in NYS (outside of NYC) since April 24, 2009, is 30.

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Health Care Providers Continue To Registering For The Vaccine:

Numerous health care providers in Ulster County have registered with the NYS DOH to obtain H1N1 vaccine and provide vaccinations. Please call your doctor and/or pharmacy to find out if they are registered.

Health care providers may request vaccine through the NYS DOH, Health Provider Network which is a secure website for health care providers.

Supply Availability:

As of this time, H1N1 vaccine supply is far below potential demand; however, it is early in the “flu season” so this is not a serious problem yet.

The Ulster County Health Department has received and distributed the first shipment of 700 doses of H1N1 Live (nasal), Intranasal Influenza vaccine within the County. A second shipment of 100 doses was also distributed to priority registered health care providers.

The Ulster County Health Department does not expect that there will be a shortage of the vaccine, but availability and demand may be unpredictable and initially the vaccine will be available in limited quantities. Persons interested in being vaccinated should expect that peak demand will be during the first few months. It is important to remember that it takes the vaccine up to 14 days to become effective.

The H1N1 vaccine may be available in a variety of settings such as healthcare provider offices, health care facilities, pharmacies and vaccination clinics organized by local health departments. You should check with your own primary care provider first to determine if you can get your vaccination.

The Ulster County Health Department will promote the availability of public clinics as soon as adequate vaccine supply is confirmed.

Seasonal Influenza and Pneumonia Clinics Postponed:

The Ulster County Health Department has postponed all scheduled seasonal flu and pneumonia clinics until further notice due to the vaccine manufacturers' delay.

It is good practice to call our **seasonal Flu Hotline** at (845) 340-3093 to hear the most current information regarding the schedule for future clinics. The information will also be posted on our website at www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health.

Additionally, those interested should call their primary care physician and/or local pharmacy for information about where to get a flu shot or check <http://www.flucliniclocator.org/> to see if there are any seasonal flu vaccine clinics scheduled at retail outlets near you.

Priority Groups:

As more vaccine becomes available, the initial doses available will be given to five target groups. The priority groups established by the CDC to receive the H1N1 influenza vaccine are:

- Pregnant women;
- Health care workers and emergency medical services personnel;
- Persons who live with or provide care for infants under six months of age;
- Children and young people ages six months through 24 years; and
- Persons age 25 through 64 years old who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for serious illness and influenza-related complications.

Because the nasal spray vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women and children ages six months to under two years of age, these groups will receive priority for vaccination as soon as injectable doses arrive and there is adequate supply.

For additional information about H1N1 and updates, visit our website at:
www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health

