CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

M. Jodi Rell, Governor

CT Department of Public Health

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## H1N1 Situation Report

Report Period: November 20, 2009 to November 25, 2009

The Connecticut Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) are working together to provide a weekly CT Situation Report on what the State of Connecticut is doing in preparation and response to a H1N1 influenza pandemic. This report provides a brief overview of the H1N1 situation in CT, as well as on the national and international levels.

*NOTE: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the start of the **2009-10 influenza season** began Sunday August 30, 2009. All statistics provided will be based on this calendar.*

## I. CONNECTICUT SITUATION SUMMARY

**Department of Public Health (DPH)**

**CT Epidemiology/Infectious Disease Section Update:**

- Preliminary influenza data reviewed from the week ending November 21, 2009 reveals that a high level of influenza activity is still being observed in Connecticut as measured by laboratory confirmed test results and syndromic surveillance system activity. The classification of flu activity classification remains as "widespread" for another week.
- Although flu activity remains high in Connecticut, the DPH syndromic surveillance systems has revealed a decrease in influenza activity as measured by patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) presenting to sentinel health providers, hospital emergency departments, or being admitted into hospitals.
- Influenza data will be reviewed during the next week to determine if the second wave of the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic may have peaked in Connecticut during the week ending November 14, 2009.
- The 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus remains the predominate subtype circulating within Connecticut, with only a few specimens of seasonal influenza [type B and influenza A (H3N2) isolates] identified to date.

**Vaccine distribution update:** as of November 24, 2009, Connecticut has received 634,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine.

**CT Public Health Laboratory Update:** *Laboratory-confirmed cases represent only a fraction of the likely number of cases in the state because many persons with mild symptoms do not seek care from a doctor or hospital but recover at home.*

- CT Public Health Laboratory Update:
  - Total specimens received (11/24/09): 65
  - Total H1N1 positive: 16
  - Total negative for all influenza: 35
  - Total pending: 9
  - Total seasonal influenza: 0
  - Novel influenza virus sent to CDC for further testing: 1
  - Total H1N1 positive since 8/30/09: 352

**Local Update**

- Local Health Districts/Departments are reporting good turnout at most H1N1 clinics. Clinics remain to be by appointment only for priority target groups only.

- DPH staff contacted local health departments and districts over the weekend via the HAN to query them as to the status of clinics over the Thanksgiving break and whether or not they are open and available to receive H1N1 vaccine on Wednesday, November 25th.
- There are few H1N1 clinics being offered after the holiday, but most will be starting up again on the November 30th.

**Schools**

- No schools closed this week.

**Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)**

- Current DEMHS activation level — MONITORING (information review and sharing, and outreach mode). H1N1 incident information has been posted for state and local public safety officials on Web EOC.
- DEMHS Regional Offices continues to receive requests from local Emergency Management Directors for CERT and MRC activation approvals to assist flu clinics. There have been 31 H1N1 Flu clinic CERT activations across the state since September 29, 2009.
- The N95 respirators distribution to municipalities has been completed. All cities and towns and tribal nations have received supplemental N95 respirators for first responder use.

**Other State Agencies**

- Ninety-nine percent of State agencies successfully reported their COOP status to the State Web EOC board.

**Public Information**

- DPH Call center volume: Total number of calls into the DPH Hotline since inception (Oct 5th): 8,273
- 211 Infoline: For the week, Nov. 15-Nov. 21, 2009, 2-1-1 Infoline answered only 14 calls related to the H1N1 virus; however, the H1N1 recorded messages were selected 376 times. The majority of messages selected continue to be regarding vaccine availability and the difference between seasonal flu and H1N1.
- The DPH hotline will close down the evening of November 25, 2009 for the holiday weekend and start up again Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7:00 AM. Individuals with questions can still access information by calling 2-1-1 or visiting the CT Flu Watch website: www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch.
- Current public messaging continues to be:
  - Connecticut is well into a second wave of the H1N1 pandemic
  - We expect to continue to see cases of influenza over the next few weeks, including hospitalizations and even death
  - Like seasonal flu, H1N1 can cause severe illness, so people should take precautions to protect themselves and others from the flu (stay home if you're sick, wash your hands, cover your cough)

## II. NEW ENGLAND STATES SITUATION/FEMA REGION A (Inc New York & New Jersey) UPDATE SUMMARY

- Connecticut and all other New England states have maintained their flu activity classification as “widespread,” the highest level of activity, for a fourth week.
- The state of New Hampshire Wednesday began a series of H1N1 clinics directed at 18-24-year-olds with underlying health conditions, as well as those in the same age group who care full-time for infants younger than six months of age. New Hampshire expanded its priority groups for the H1N1 vaccine.
- Rhode Island has announced plans to vaccinate students in grades K through 12 who attend school out of state.
- Vermont has authorized licenses EMTs and paramedics to serve as vaccinators at public clinics.

## III. NATIONAL SITUATION UPDATE SUMMARY

CDC Update:

- CDC/HHS are working to educate people about preventing the spread of H1N1 during the holiday season.
- This is the fifth consecutive week with widespread influenza activity being reported by 43U.S. states. Three new states (North Dakota, South Carolina, and Wyoming) joined Hawaii, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Texas in reporting lower "regional" activity, providing continued evidence that the second wave of the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic remains at high levels in most regions of the county.
- As of November 20, the most significant impacts of A (H1N1) remain influenza-associated pediatric deaths and outpatient visits for ILI. *(Source: HHS/CDC)*

## IV. INTERNATIONAL H1N1 UPDATE SUMMARY

World Health Organization (WHO) Update – Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 75 Weekly update (20 November 2009)

- As of 1 November 15, 2009, more than 206 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 6,770 deaths.
- WHO estimates that around 80 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been distributed and approximately 65 million people have been vaccinated worldwide. Countries are using a variety of different vaccines. Although intense monitoring of vaccine safety continues, all data compiled to date indicate that pandemic vaccines match the excellent safety profile of seasonal influenza vaccines.
- Public health significance of virus mutation detected in Norway. For more information: WHO H1N1 briefing note 17
- Safety of pandemic vaccines: WHO H1N1 briefing note 16

## V. NON-H1N1 INFORMATION

No report

Distribution List: CT City, Town & Tribal Nation Chief Elected Officials/Chief Executive Officers
CT City, Town & Tribal Nation Emergency Management Directors
CT City, Town & Tribal Nation Health Department/Districts
CT Emergency Management Association (CEMA) – Executive Board
CT City, Town & Tribal Nation Public Safety – Police & Fire Chiefs
Regional Planning Organizations/Agencies, Council of Governments/Elected Officials
DEMHS Coordinating Council
Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Councils
State of Connecticut Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Liaisons
Security Communications Access Network (SCAN)

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November 25, 2009

**Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!**