

City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Situational Awareness Report #2 September 17, 2009

The following Novel Influenza A (H1N1) situational report is being provided to key stakeholders to provide information on the latest updates regarding the MHD, State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) response to Novel Influenza A (H1N1). MHD will provide weekly situational awareness reports during the 2009 – 2010 influenza season.

New Key Developments

- 1. Southeastern Wisconsin has exceeded the influenza like illness baseline for this time of year and the region is now considered to have a high level of activity of influenza like illness**
- 2. US Food and Drug Administration announced on September 15, 2009 that it has approved Novel Influenza A (H1N1) vaccines**
- 3. Dr. Fauci of the CDC reported that the initial findings of clinical trials for the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine in adults and the elderly are showing a strong immune response with a single dose of vaccine; the vaccine appears to be safe and well tolerated**
- 4. CDC has announced that it anticipates that 15 million doses of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine will be available in early October; the initial doses are expected to be focused on healthcare workers, with additional doses by mid-October for all 5 key target groups**
- 5. CDC anticipates that the live attenuated influenza virus vaccine (FluMist®) will be available earliest in the vaccination campaign**

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Surveillance

- MHD has noted that confirmed lab reports for Novel Influenza A (H1N1) are beginning to increase within the City of Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs
- The CDC is reporting that 97% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to the CDC were Novel Influenza A (H1N1) during the week of August 30th – September 5th

MHD Activities

- MHD continues to provide information to the community with the use of sector specific Novel Influenza A (H1N1) summits.
(<http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/DiseaseControlandEnv417/H1N1CommunitySummits.htm>)
 - Healthcare Summit → September 18, 2009
 - Faith Based Organizations and Community Based Organizations → September 25, 2009

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine

- Additional information on the initial findings reported by Dr. Fauci of the CDC regarding clinical trials for Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine:
 - Since these are initial findings, CDC at this time has not made specific recommendations on if the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine will require one or two doses
 - Initial safety and efficacy findings are for healthy adults and the elderly, but not for children or pregnant women
 - Initial findings on clinical trials for children are expected within the next two weeks
 - Clinical trails for pregnant women have just begun
- CDC is continues to report that 42 million doses of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) will be available for distribution by mid October with a total of 73 million doses becoming available by the end of October
- MHD will follow the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations regarding the following five key target groups for vaccine (www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm):
 - Pregnant woman
 - Persons who live with or care for children less than 6 months of age
 - Healthcare and emergency services personnel
 - Persons between the age of 6 months and 24 years of age
 - Persons from age 25 to 64 years of age who are at higher risk for Novel Influenza A (H1N1) because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- There is currently seasonal influenza vaccine within the community. MHD is recommending seasonal influenza vaccine for everyone - - and individuals who fall within the target groups of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine should not delay receiving seasonal influenza vaccine until Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine becomes available

Antiviral Medication

- There have been sporadic reports of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) resistance to Tamiflu®, however CDC has not documented additional transmission of the resistant virus and continues the recommendation of using either neuraminidase inhibitor (Tamiflu® or Relenza®) for the treatment of Novel Influenza A (H1N1)

Community Infection Control Measures

- MHD has recently updated its recommendation for exposed health care workers who are asymptomatic. Health care workers who have been exposed and are asymptomatic but are not taking PEP antiviral treatment and who work with patients who are at high risk of complications from Novel Influenza A (H1N1) should either:
 - Be re-assigned to work with generally well individuals or with patients who have low risk of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) complications, for seven days after last known exposure, OR
 - Be furloughed for seven days after the last known exposure

- Anyone experiencing influenza like illness should stay home from work or school and avoid exposing others in the community. This self-isolation should continue until 24 hours after the fever has resolved without use of anti-fever medications.
 - Individuals who develop symptoms while at work or school should be encouraged to wear a surgical mask until the individual can be removed from settings where other individuals may be exposed

Additional Resources and Information _____

- www.milwaukee.gov/flu
- www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov
- www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/

For comments or questions regarding this report, please contact Mat Wolters, MS with the City of Milwaukee Health Department at 414-286-5448 or at mwolte@milwaukee.gov.

The information contained in the following situational report has been generated by MHD and is intended to be used by public health stakeholders to assist them in making strategic decisions during the 2009 – 2010 Influenza Season. This situational report is not intended to replace outside stakeholder's current pandemic flu planning or their continuity of operations plan.