

City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Situational Awareness Report #3 September 24, 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. MHD continues to identify influenza like illness (ILI) in the community along with increasing numbers of emergency department visits due to ILI**
- 2. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of 1 dose of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine in individuals 10 years of age and older (6 months to 9 year olds will likely need 2 doses separated by at least 3 weeks)**
- 3. CDC anticipates that at least 3 million doses of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) -- commonly known as Flumist® -- will be available in the first week of October. LAIV is approved for healthy individuals aged 2 – 49 years of age. Initial doses are expected to be focused on healthcare workers, with additional doses by mid-October for all 5 key target groups**

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Surveillance

- Since September 1, 2009 there have been 6 hospitalizations due to Novel Influenza A (H1N1) in Wisconsin with one of those hospitalizations occurring within Milwaukee County; there have been 0 Wisconsin deaths reported since September 1, 2009 due to Novel Influenza A (H1N1)
- The Wisconsin State Division of Public Health's weekly surveillance report for the week of September 6th – September 12th lists the Southeast Region and two other regions as having “high” levels of ILI for this time of year
- 21 states are now reporting widespread activity of ILI, and the CDC is reporting that 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to the CDC during the week of September 6th – September 12th were Novel Influenza A (H1N1)

MHD Activities

- MHD has designated the following points of contacts for various sectors within the community. If your organization falls within one of these sectors and you have a question regarding Novel Influenza A (H1N1), you may contact the following individuals for assistance:
 - Businesses → Maureen Bezold – mbezol@milwaukee.gov
 - Healthcare Organizations → Mary Jo Gerlach – mgerla@milwaukee.gov

- Schools (K-12) or Childcare Facilities → Darryl Davidson – ddavid@milwaukee.gov
- Higher Education Institutions → Sonja Dimitrijevic – sdimit@milwaukee.gov
- Faith Based and Community Based Organizations → Julie Hults – jhults@milwaukee.gov
- MHD “kicked-off” its Annual Influenza Awareness Campaign on September 21, 2009 at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee’s Union; Seasonal Influenza Vaccine was in higher demand at this “kick-off” than in previous years

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine

- On September 21, 2009, the National Institutes of Health reported that the initial findings of clinical trials for the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine in children are showing a strong immune response with a single dose of vaccine for older children between the ages of 10 – 17
 - Current safety and efficacy findings are reassuring, and apply to healthy adults, children and the elderly; clinical trials for pregnant women have just begun
- The Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Vaccine is produced in the same way as Seasonal Influenza Vaccine, and thus is expected to have the same very good safety track record as Seasonal Influenza Vaccines; side effects are expected to be rare and mimic the side effects of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine
- CDC 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

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 recommends that individuals cover their cough and routinely wash their hands with soap and water during the influenza season to help protect themselves and others from influenza illness; if soap and water are not readily available, alcohol based hand sanitizers can be used in the place of soap and water and should be rubbed into an individual-s hands until dry

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.