

MHD provides key stakeholders with situational reports to summarize the latest updates regarding the MHD, State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) response to 2010 – 2011 Seasonal Influenza.

New Key Developments

1. On November 12, 2010 the CDC reported two human cases of swine origin influenza A (H3N2) virus in the U.S. (Wisconsin and Pennsylvania). In most situations, including the two recently identified cases, the infection occurs in individuals who have direct contact with pigs, and at this time there has been no indication of any person-to-person transmission. These types of infections CANNOT occur by eating pork products.

Although these types of infections are rare, they do occur from time to time. In the past five years there have been approximately three infections per year reported in the U.S. For additional information regarding these two cases, please visit the following website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/heard.htm#h3n2>.

2. The CDC has released updated guidance for controlling influenza in K-12 schools. The new guidance is for school administrators to control influenza during the 2010 – 2011 season as well as guidance on how to clean and disinfect school buildings. For a copy, please visit the following websites:

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/school/schoolguidance_reducingspreadofflu.pdf and

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/school/cleaning_disinfecting_schools.pdf.

3. From June 13th through September 25th the CDC participated in an antigenic characterization of influenza viruses with the World Health Organization (WHO), which included the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) strain. The results of this analysis identified that 99% of the H1N1 viruses analyzed remain “very” similar to the H1N1 influenza strain that circulated during the pandemic and is included in this year’s seasonal influenza vaccine.

Influenza Surveillance

- MHD and WDHS influenza surveillance continues to report low levels of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Southeastern Wisconsin during the week of November 7th – November 13th.
- The positive predictive value for influenza rapid tests remains low, so MHD continues to recommend that these tests should NOT be used to diagnose influenza infections at this time.
- During the week of November 7th – November 13th, there were no samples submitted to MHD laboratory or the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene that tested positive for influenza.
- CDC reported the first influenza-related pediatric death of the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. The pediatric death occurred during the week of October 31st – November 6th in Texas.

- CDC is reporting that one state is reporting moderate levels of ILI activity, one state is reporting low levels of ILI activity, and 48 states (including Wisconsin) reported minimal levels of ILI for the week of October 31st – November 6th.
- CDC is reporting that four states reported local influenza disease activity, 34 states (including Wisconsin) reported sporadic activity, and 12 states reported no activity for the week of November 7th – November 13th.

Influenza Vaccine

- The CDC reports that the trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine is considered a good match for the currently identified circulating strains of influenza that are being identified in the U.S., and MHD continues to encourage that all individuals be vaccinated for influenza this season.
- The Aurora VNA and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare have announced the dates and times of their seasonal influenza vaccination clinics for this influenza season. No appointments are necessary for either organization. For more information on the cost, accepted medical coverage, and age requirements of these clinics, please visit their individual websites.
 - Aurora VNA (www.aurorahealthcare.org/services/vna/shoooflu/index.asp)
 - Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare (www.mywheaton.org/about/documents/Community_Flu_Clinics.pdf)
- Several area pharmacies have announced that they now have seasonal influenza vaccine available at their locations. For more information on the cost, need for an appointment, accepted medical coverage, and age requirements, please visit their individual websites.
 - CVS (www.cvs.com/flu/?WT.mc_id=B_083010_CVSHome_Flu_Scheduler)
 - Target (http://sites.target.com/site/en/spot/flushot_locator.jsp)
 - Walgreens (www.walgreens.com/marketing/storelocator/find.jsp?check=true&ban=flh1_h_flu)
 - Wal-Mart (<http://flushotsusa.walmart.com/>)

Additional Resources

- Internet Based
 - www.milwaukee.gov/flu
 - www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/influenza/
 - www.cdc.gov/flu

The information contained in this 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 2010 – 2011 Influenza Season. This situational report is not intended to replace stakeholders' current pandemic flu planning or their continuity of operations plans.