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Flu News You Can Use!

City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)

2010 – 2011 Influenza Season
Situational Awareness Report #1
August 11, 2010

MHD provides key stakeholders with 2010 – 2011 Influenza Season 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 August 10, 2010 the World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Committee officially declared that the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic has progressed to a post-pandemic period. This means that experts believe the virus will take on the behavior of seasonal influenza viruses and continue to circulate in the community for years to come. For a copy of the full WHO announcement, please visit http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2010/h1n1_vpc_20100810/en/print.html.**
2. **On August 6, 2010 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that healthcare providers refrain from vaccinating children eight years of age or younger with CSL Biotherapies trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) Afluria, due to the potential risk of fever and/or febrile seizures. This recommendation from ACIP does not affect other TIV manufacturers or the live attenuated influenza virus (LAIV) manufacturer. Healthcare workers should continue to recommend an influenza vaccination for all individuals 6 months of age or older; however, healthcare providers should avoid the use of Afluria in children eight years of age or younger and should vaccinate those children with an alternative TIV or LAIV.**
3. **On August 4, 2010, the CDC issued a Health Advisory to state and local health departments regarding two clusters of Seasonal Influenza A (H3N2) in eastern Iowa along with sporadic cases throughout the U.S. These sporadic cases and two clusters of Seasonal Influenza A (H3N2) serve as a reminder that influenza viruses circulate at low levels throughout the summer months, and healthcare providers are reminded to consider influenza as a possible diagnosis when evaluating patients with acute respiratory illnesses including pneumonia, even during summer months. For a copy of the full CDC Health Advisory, please visit http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=20064&locid=106.**

Influenza Surveillance

- Current global influenza surveillance for both the northern and southern hemisphere is identifying several strains of influenza circulating at this time. The MHD and other public health partners are uncertain at this time which influenza virus will be the predominant circulating strain for the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. For this reason, MHD is strongly encouraging all individuals (6 months of age and older) to receive their annual seasonal influenza vaccination as soon as it becomes available this fall, regardless if they received a seasonal or pandemic influenza vaccination last season.
- Clinicians are reminded that rapid influenza tests should not be used during periods of low influenza prevalence, due to high false positive rates in such circumstances; instead clinicians should send specimens to a qualified laboratory that can perform a rRT-PCR influenza assay.

- The CDC has reviewed surveillance data from the 1st and 2nd wave of 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) and has determined that the following health conditions put people at higher risk of being hospitalized due to 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) infection:
    - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
    - Diabetes
    - Neurologic disease
    - Asthma
    - Heart disease
    - Pregnancy

  This list is specific to 2009 Influenza A (H1N1), and does not change the usual CDC list of high risk groups for influenza complications generally.

Influenza Vaccine

- On February 24, 2010 the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that all individuals 6 months of age and older should receive an annual seasonal influenza vaccination. The only individuals who ACIP does not recommend receive a seasonal influenza vaccination are children less than 6 months of age and individuals who have a bona fide contraindication to the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- On June 2, 2010 the CDC released preliminary results for the surveillance for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after individuals received 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine. The preliminary results, published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), showed that the risk for GBS within 42 days of vaccination with 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) monovalent vaccine was less than 1 per 1 million vaccinations, which is comparable to regular trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine formulations. For the full report, please visit: http://www.cdc. gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm59e0602a1.htm
- The CDC and the FDA has recommended that vaccine manufacturers include 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) as one component of their seasonal influenza trivalent vaccine for the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. The other two components of the vaccine are expected to protect individuals from the currently circulating Influenza A (H3N2) virus and the Influenza B virus.

Antiviral Medication

- The use of neurominidase inhibitor antivirals oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®) are recommended for use against currently circulating influenza viruses. The adamantine antivirals (amantadine and rimantadine) are not recommended due to a high level of resistance of currently circulating influenza A viruses.
- MHD co-authored a research article that was published in the BioMed Central Infectious Disease Journal on the use of Oseltamivir for the treatment and prevention of pandemic influenza A/H1N1 virus infection in households. For a copy of the full research article, please visit http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2334-10-211.pdf.
- On June 23, 2010 the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) granted during the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic's first and second waves will be terminated. For complete information regarding the expiration of these EUAs, please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/eua/

Additional Resources

- Internet Based
    - www.milwaukee.gov/flu
    - www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov
    - 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.