



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory

Influenza Activity Surveillance Summary and Public Health Reporting Recommendations September 24, 2009

Surveillance Summary

In the past week, reports of influenza A in Philadelphia have started to increase, but overall activity remains at a low level (see figure). During the same period, a small increase was also noted for emergency department visits for febrile/flu-like illnesses. From May 1–August 31, 2009, 276 hospitalized, 39 pregnant, and 8 fatal cases of influenza were reported to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH). Since September 1, 2009 5 hospitalized and 0 pregnant and fatal cases of influenza were reported. All of the influenza isolates sub-typed since June in Philadelphia have been novel H1N1 influenza A.

Although transmission appears to be increasing, the disease is not so prevalent at this point that any presentation of febrile respiratory illness can be assumed to be influenza. Other respiratory viruses, such as rhinoviruses, respiratory syncytial viruses, adenoviruses, and parainfluenza viruses are also circulating.

A detailed influenza surveillance report is posted each Thursday to the PDPH Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov>).

Reporting Requirements for Influenza

PDPH requests that healthcare providers and infection control practitioners continue to report the following to the health department using the enclosed, updated case report form:

- Hospitalized persons with laboratory-confirmed (including positive rapid tests) or suspected influenza
- Fatal cases of laboratory-confirmed (including positive rapid tests) or suspected influenza
- Pregnant women with laboratory-confirmed influenza (including positive rapid tests)
- Outbreaks of influenza in a facility, school, childcare center, shelter, or other setting that requires special containment measures

Cases can be reported via fax to 215-545-8362 or reported electronically via the secure portion of the Health Information Portal. Information about electronic case reporting and a PDF version of the case report form can be found at <https://hip.phila.gov>. Outbreaks can be reported by calling 215-685-6748.

Updated clinical and testing guidance from PDPH will be provided in upcoming health advisories.

PDPH Laboratory Surveillance of Influenza A and Emergency Department Surveillance of Fever/Flu Chief Complaints, 2009

