



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory

2009-2010 Influenza Update and H1N1 Vaccine Expansion Recommendations in Philadelphia January 9, 2010

Local Surveillance Update

Flu activity in Philadelphia has decreased significantly after peaking in mid-October. Presently, 2009 H1N1 Influenza A continues to be the predominant strain circulating in Philadelphia, although seasonal flu strains are beginning to appear. Hospitals and healthcare providers are requested to report *any* hospitalized, pregnant, or fatal cases where influenza (both 2009 H1N1 influenza A and seasonal influenza) is suspected or identified using the case report form posted on <https://hip.phila.gov/xv/DiseaseInformation/H1N1Influenza/Guidance/tabid/213/Default.aspx>.

Additionally, all outbreaks of suspected or confirmed influenza in a facility, school, childcare center, shelter, or other setting that requires special containment measures should be reported to the Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6740 (after hours 215-686-4514, ask to speak to the person on call for the Division). Since September 1st 2009, there have been 656 hospitalized, 12 fatal, and 118 pregnant cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza that have been reported to PDPH.

Recommendations on H1N1 Vaccine Expansion

On December 15th 2009 the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) urged providers in the Commonwealth to expand H1N1 vaccine availability to include all patients. Because H1N1 influenza vaccine has become steadily more available in the Philadelphia region over recent weeks, and vaccine has been provided to many people in the 5 prioritized groups at greatest risk of illness and severe outcomes, **the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) is recommending that vaccine providers in Philadelphia expand H1N1 vaccine availability to all persons seeking vaccine who wish to reduce their risk of contracting H1N1 influenza.** In addition to the Philadelphia Health Department's efforts to expand access to H1N1 vaccine, the CDC is working directly with commercial pharmacies in the region to make H1N1 vaccine available. PDPH continues to encourage all vaccine providers to strongly recommend H1N1 vaccination to people in the 5 priority groups defined by CDC. To review, these include:

- Pregnant women
- Children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years
- Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services personnel
- Parents, caretakers and household contacts of infants less than 6 months of age
- Persons ages 25 – 64 years with an underlying medical condition

Vaccine Administration Records (VAR) still need to be completed and submitted to PDPH for all H1N1 vaccinations that occur in Philadelphia. Providers should leave the section on priority group identification blank for patients who are not in one of the 5 priority groups listed above.

Additional information for healthcare providers regarding local disease transmission and H1N1 influenza control recommendations can be found on the Health Information Portal (HIP) accessible at: <https://hip.phila.gov/xv/> or the PA DOH H1N1 in PA website accessible at: <http://www.h1n1inpa.com/> or the CDC 2009 H1N1 Flu website accessible at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.