



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH
Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity
Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH
Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD
Director, Division of Disease Control

Health Update

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report – July 24, 2009

Novel influenza A (H1N1) activity has declined significantly in Philadelphia

Influenza activity in Emergency Departments citywide has nearly reached normal baseline levels expected during summer months in Philadelphia (figure). The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) has indicated there are similar declines statewide (data not shown).

As of July 24, six deaths due to novel H1N1 have been confirmed in Philadelphia; a seventh is under investigation. Six of the seven fatalities had major underlying illnesses. A total of 267 influenza-related hospitalizations have been reported to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) since May 1, 2009; 9% of these cases required the

intensive care unit. There have been 38 cases of influenza A (H1N1) reported in pregnant women.

Additional information regarding H1N1 influenza A is available on the PDPH Division of Disease Control's web site for health professionals: https://hip.phila.gov/. Surveillance reports for state-wide influenza activity may be found at http://www.health.state.pa.us/flu. PDPH and PA DOH are making plans for antiviral and vaccine distribution during the fall/winter season, when novel H1N1 influenza A is expected to return. Information regarding distribution plans and vaccine production will be shared as soon as it is available.

PDPH Laboratory Surveillance of Influenza A and Emergency Department Surveillance of Influenza-Like Illness, 2009 Season

