General Situation

• The Department of Health and Senior Services continues to monitor the H1N1 Influenza 2009 Event

• As of 30 October, the number of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) deaths in the U.S. was 619 (+113) this week. *(Source: HHS/CDC)*

• As of 30 October, the most significant impacts of A(H1N1) remain increased ILI outpatient visits and influenza associated pediatric deaths. *(Source: HHS/CDC)*

• According to the HHS/CDC, the percentage of visits for ILI reported by the US Outpatient ILI Surveillance Network is 8.0%, which is well above the national baseline of 2.3%. Based on historical data, ILI visits would typically be around 1.0% this time of year therefore the current ILI percentage is approximately eight times higher than usual. *(Source: HHS/CDC Data)*
General Situation (cont.)

• On 29 October New York Governor Paterson issued Executive Order #29 declaring a State Disaster Emergency. This action provides additional personnel to administer vaccinations and the flexibility to local government as they work to implement a statewide H1N1 vaccine strategy.

• On 30 October the Mayor of Philadelphia, Michael A. Nutter, declared a Public Health Emergency for the city. The declaration of a public health emergency is an administrative action that will enable Philadelphia hospitals to meet the growing demand for services.
General Situation (cont.)

• Although the vaccine distribution picture continues to improve, delays in vaccine shipment have disrupted planned clinics.

• DHSS is working with the CDC and Google to populate a national flu vaccine locator tool.

• Distribution of N-95 respirators to healthcare facilities will begin as early as next week.
SSS/STOCKPILE

- **N-95 RESPIRATORS** - Conference Calls to LINCS Agencies and Hospitals to roll out distribution program. Program is scheduled to start next week.

- **ANTIVIRAL PROGRAM** - Final arrangements being made with WALGREENS and FQHCs.

- **Vaccines** - being distributed from SSS to LINCS Agencies
Communications

- National Media:
  - CBS Evening News—Call Center highlighted-serving public and providers in response to frustration with slow supply of vaccine
  - 60 Minutes—episode on H1N1 vaccine production
  - Additional Tamiflu released from federal stockpile (234,000 doses)
  - NYT article indicates close to 40% of private-sector workers lack paid sick days; consequence, may attend work when sick.
  - Independent expert group is tracking H1N1 vaccine safety, monitoring side effects.
Communications (Cont.)

• New Jersey Media:
  – Death in Middlesex county—42 y.o. male with underlying conditions
  – Some flu clinics cancelled or had to turn away people due to limited supply
  – Some schools suspending perfect attendance recognition to discourage attending school if sick
  – Press teleconference 11/4/09 provided updated info re: Middlesex county death, vaccine supply & distribution, use of find a flu shot tool
Communications (Cont.)

- Public Information Initiatives:
  - Call Center—scripts continuously updated; moved to 7 days/ 9-5 operation
  - H1N1 Weekly Update—Nov. 5
  - H1N1 Resource Center online
  - Updated Find a Flu Shot tool to be more user-friendly
Communications (Cont.)

• Public Awareness Campaign:
  – PSAs for TV & radio are currently suspended due to the currently limited supply of H1N1; will re-evaluate when to re-start
  
  – Bus Ads continue

  – Twitter messaging
Call Center Briefing – 11/5/09

• Continues to be operational from 9am – 5pm, 7 days a week
• Call volume for 1st weekend was light
• Flu clinic (81%) and vaccine information (31%) represent a majority of the call volume
• Calls transferred to ECC represent 6% of call volume
• Totals calls at COB on 11/4/09 was 13,888
  o 91% - General Public
  o 7% - Healthcare Sector
Categories of Questions asked by Callers

- Flu Clinic Information: 10,000+ questions
- Vaccine/Vaccination Related: 3,000-4,000 questions
- Other: 1,000-2,000 questions
- Signs & Symptoms: 1,000-2,000 questions
- Transmission/Infectivity: 100-200 questions
- School Issues & Concerns: 100-200 questions
- Treatment/Medical Care: 100-200 questions
- Medications/Anti-Viral Treatments: 100-200 questions
- Advice/Guidance for Sick: 100-200 questions
- Prevention/Precaution Methods: 100-200 questions
- Other: 100-200 questions
Trends in Call Volume

Date

Call Volume


0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200


0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200
Laboratory

Laboratory Testing 29 October to 4 November

• Clinical samples submitted to the Laboratory: 94
  • Public Health 2
  • Hospitals 75
  • Universities 8
  • Medical Examiners 0
  • Medical Practitioners 9
• Clinical samples processed 84
• Clinical samples positive for H1N1 47
• Percentages of clinical samples positive for H1N1 56.0%
CDS

Current Situation:
MMWR week 43

• 82 influenza associated hospitalizations (reports from 15 hospitals)
  – A marked increase over preceding week
• Two influenza associated deaths since Sept 1, 2009
  – 1 hospitalized adult with underlying disease
  – 1 pediatric death
• CDC/CSTE activity level: Widespread

• Call Centers (cumulative totals 11/4):
  – ECC: 4334
  – IT helpdesk: 2056

  Majority remain technical requests from providers concerning vaccine distribution and enrollment program.
CDS (Cont.)

- Vaccine distribution to 1330 Providers
- Total doses received as of 11/04: 776,100
- Total doses ordered: 1.4 million
  - Including Flumist
    - 236,400 doses
Public Health

1) LINCS Weekly H1N1 Survey

– Public Health Command/Management

• Public Health Annex activated - 2  (\(\downarrow\) decrease from last week)
• Call Centers activated – 2  (\(\downarrow\) decrease from last week)
• EOC representation - 2  (\(\downarrow\) decrease from last week)
• MRC activated - 8  (\(\uparrow\) increase from last week)
LINCS Weekly H1N1 Survey, cont’d

- **Challenges**
  - lack of H1N1 vaccine
  - seasonal vaccine and supply shortages
  - widespread staffing shortages
  - emergency room ILI encounters are exceeding all historical levels (Burlington)

- **Overall Reported Capacity** [no change from last week]
  - *Adequate to Partially Adequate*
2. DHSS Activities

- DHSS “Find A Flu Shot” website
  
  http://nj.gov/health/flu/findflushot.shtml
  
  - LHD H1N1 clinics posted: 28 (in 8 counties)
  - LHD “TBA” notices posted: 58 (for 14 counties)
Public Health (Cont.)

DHSS Activities, cont’d

• Grants for local H1N1 activities
  – of 105 applications (LHDs and LINCS), about 2/3rds approved programmatically
  – first eight (8) awards were issued and mailed out to grantees last week
  – expect to have majority of all NOGAs (including LINCS) issued by the end of November.
Public Health (Cont.)

• Anecdotal complaints of individuals being turned away from H1N1 clinics because of residency

• No jurisdictional barriers at any public health clinic

• Individuals in targeted populations should receive H1N1 vaccine regardless of residency.

• Attachment C requirement to serve target populations first
Healthcare

MCC Report

• Regional conference calls reference distribution of PPE to three healthcare groups - Public Health, Hospitals CEOs, and the regional hospitals EPCs
• Conference call to LINC agencies regarding vaccine and antivirals
• Hospitals reporting slight higher than average ER visits related to ILI complaints, few admissions reported.
Healthcare (Cont.)

• Many hospitals in various regions have not received any of the H1N1 vaccine.
• Some hospitals showing a diminished PPE profile.
• Some EMS agencies are receiving vaccine shots by county Health and or hospitals. This is not universal.
• Seeing some school closures – Our Lady Star of the Sea, 57% absentees
Healthcare (Cont.)

• National Hospital Available Beds (HAvBED) Data survey
• PPE Regional Cache Update
• Healthcare – N-95 Respirator Issues/Other Shortages
  – N-95 Respirator Distribution Plan for acute care hospitals.
  – Hospitals are now experiencing surgical mask shortages.
Healthcare (Cont.)

- **Update on Regulatory Issues – re: waivers**
  - Waiting on letter release to be issued by regulatory

- **Healthcare H1N1 Grant Update**
  - To date, one grant has been released to Grant Review

- **Visitation Restrictions**

- **HACC Activities**
  - Maintaining situational awareness
EMS

• Current Situation: EMS Charts Flu-Like Symptom Reporting for Week of 10/28-11/03 – 166 agencies report 83 patients (previous week 166 agencies reported 80 patients)

• EMS PPE Survey – forwarded to Hippocrates for posting
Flu-Like Symptoms Reporting
DAILY EMS CHARTS REPORTS


Patients

[Bar chart showing the number of patients reporting flu-like symptoms on different dates]
Flu-Like Symptoms Reporting
6 WEEK TREND

![Bar chart showing the trend of flu-like symptoms reporting over six weeks from 9-23 to 11-03.]
EMS (cont.)

- Other Issues: Special edition of the "Spotlight on EMS – For Adults Only" newsletter devoted solely to H1N1 issues has been approved and will be available to all Statewide Conference on EMS registrants. One continuing education credit will be provided to all EMTs and school nurses who successfully complete the Post Test.
Personnel Issues

• This week 8 candidates were interviewed for the H1N1 Call Center. Of the candidates, 6 people were hired and will start working this Saturday. That brings the total of call center staff to 21.

• There are:

  – 18 Customer Information Specialists
  – 2 Customer Information Specialists, Bilingual
  – 1 Staff Nurse
Personnel Issues (Cont.)

• Our Grant Program has hired all 8 positions who are currently working full time in the H&A building.

• NJDHSS requested 8 Direct Assistance Positions from the CDC (3 Epidemiologists, and 5 Public Health Advisors). Nationally the CDC received 180 resumes for Direct Assistance positions, but only 19 candidates were found to be qualified. CDC is currently conducting interviews and will bring NJ into the process within the next few weeks as prospective matches are identified.
Personnel Issues (Cont.)

• To date Communicable Disease Services has hired 8 out of 25 staff, all are Research Technician 2s.

• Financial Services has hired 1 Technical Assistant, Contract Administration out of 3 staff. They are currently interviewing for their 2 vacant Grant Specialists. Interviews are still being conducted for the remaining vacancies.
Human Services

RESOURCES FOR COPING WITH THE STRESS OF 2009 H1N1

• County Mental Health Administrators

• New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services:
  – 609 - 777- 0728

• Web site: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/disaster/h1n1dtb.html

• Mental Health Helpline:
  – 1-877-294- HELP (4357) or 1-877-294-4356 (TTY)
NJDOE Operational Briefing

**Current Status**
- School Closures-N/A
  - Two schools have reported closing in Atlantic County: Pilgrim Academy in Galloway Township and Our Lady Star of the Sea in Atlantic City.

**Potential**
- School Closures-N/A

**Communication**
- Press Release-N/A
- Media Interest
  - If any schools are closing or showing high rates of absences
- Other- N/A
NJDOE Operational Briefing

General Actions

- Salem County
  - 11/2: Upper Pittsgrove SD- H1N1 vaccination clinic
  - 11/2 & 11/4: Woodstown-Pilesgrove SD- H1N1 vaccination clinic

- Mercer County
  - 11/3: Katzenbach School for the Deaf- H1N1 vaccination clinic

- Burlington County
  - 11/2: Rancocas Valley Regional High School- H1N1 vaccination clinic
NJDOE Operational Briefing

General Actions

• 11/2- School Surveillance Guidance disseminated

• 11/2- Survey to ECSs:
  – The number of school based H1N1 clinics that have already taken place in each county
  – The number of school based H1N1 clinics scheduled to take place in each county
General Actions Cont.

- H1N1 Webpage Update
  - Pandemic Influenza Awareness Program

Current Challenges

- Reminding our constituents about H1N1 case count vs. influenza-like-illness (hospitalizations and deaths) and when and who will confirm cases.

- Assessing the need for districts to report elevated absentee rates.

Next Steps

- N/A
HIPER Operations

- HIPER Operations assisting Stockpile Program with H1N1 deliveries to Local HD’s
- Tropical Depression Eleven forms in the southwestern Caribbean Sea.
- Tropical Depression Eleven today has become Hurricane IDA.