



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913
For additional flu information visit: www.michigan.gov/flu

Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update

The ongoing outbreak of novel influenza A (H1N1) continues to expand in the United States and throughout the world.

INTERNATIONAL: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of May 14, 2009, 33 countries have officially reported 6,497 cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) infection. Mexico has reported 2,446 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 60 deaths. Canada has reported 389 cases, including one death. For a map illustrating the spread of cases throughout the world, click [here](#).

UNITED STATES: As of May 14, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 4,298 cases in 47 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). Three deaths in the U.S. have been confirmed from this outbreak to date. For more information and up-to-date case counts, visit the CDC website. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

In Michigan there have been 141 confirmed cases reported as of May 14, 2009. These cases are distributed throughout 21 counties. The 141 confirmed and probable cases consist of 67 (48%) females and 74 (52%) males. The average age is 18 years old (range 2 months to 60 years) and the median age is 17. For further information, visit Michigan's novel H1N1 flu website at www.michigan.gov/h1n1flu.

The WHO pandemic phase of alert remains at phase 5. For more information on the pandemic alert phases click [here](#).

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infections in Three Pregnant Women

According to the CDC, as of May 10, 2009, a total of 20 cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection had been reported among pregnant women in the United States. This includes 15 confirmed cases and five probable cases. In a recent MMWR published on May 12, 2009, preliminary details of three cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in pregnant women are described. To read the article in its entirety, click [here](#).

WHO: Assessing the Severity of an Influenza Pandemic

The major determinant of the severity of an influenza pandemic, as measured by the number of cases of severe illness and deaths it causes, is the inherent virulence of the virus. However, many other factors influence the overall severity of a pandemic's impact. Even a pandemic virus that initially causes mild symptoms in otherwise healthy people can be disruptive, especially under the conditions of today's highly mobile and closely interdependent societies. Moreover, the same virus that causes mild illness in one country can result in much higher morbidity and mortality in another. In addition, the inherent virulence of the virus can change over time as the pandemic goes through subsequent waves of national and international spread. To continue reading this article, click [here](#).

Analysis Of Flu Virus Could Lead To Better Vaccines

Researchers from Princeton University suggest that a phenomenon known as antibody interference may help scientists develop a more effective flu vaccine. The study is described in the May 11 online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. For more information, visit the following [website](#).

Resources

Access the following links for up-to-date resources:

Michigan's H1N1 influenza web page: www.michigan.gov/h1n1flu

CDC's H1N1 influenza web page: www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu

For a list of the latest articles: <http://pandemicflu.gov/news/newsarchive.html>

FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) H1N1 influenza web page: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/H1N1.htm>

Immunization Action Coalition H1N1 influenza web page: <http://www.immunize.org/h1n1/>

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. An archived list of past FluBytes issues can be found [here](#).