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Pandemic H1N1 (2009) Influenza Update

Current WHO pandemic alert level: Phase 6 (Pandemic).

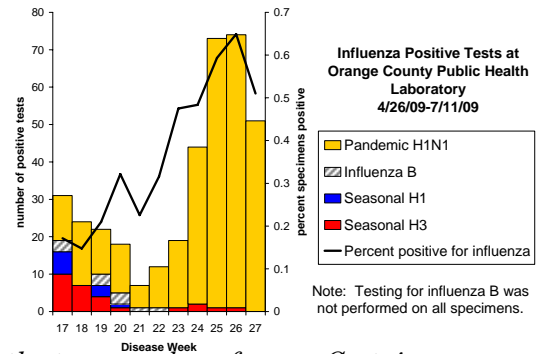
Current CDC pandemic severity index (PSI): Category 2 (of 5)

(see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/commitigation.html> for definitions of PSI)

- **Orange County (OC) update:** As of July 17, 2009, 531 confirmed or probable cases of pandemic H1N1 flu have been reported in Orange County residents. There have been nine deaths. Based on CDPH recommendations, HCA will no longer be tracking outpatient cases and reporting will focus on hospitalized cases and deaths. Therefore, HCA will no longer be posting total cases on the website. **Almost all (98%) of the influenza subtyped at OC Public Health since late May has been pandemic H1N1.**

Note: Surveillance is not population-based and underestimates the true number of cases. Certain groups may be over-represented given current priorities for testing, which includes patients with influenza-like illness who are hospitalized, health care workers, pregnant, part of a cluster/outbreak, or residing in an institutional setting.

- **Surveillance Clarification:** OC Public Health Laboratory will continue to test specimens from patients who meet the surveillance criteria (see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/swine/providers/index.htm>) for pandemic H1N1 influenza. Outpatient sentinel providers who report weekly on influenza-like illness (ILI) patients seen in their office can also submit specimens from patients with ILI as part of the CDC/CDPH/OCHCA sentinel ILI surveillance. Specimens not meeting criteria and not from an outpatient sentinel ILI provider will not be tested by OC Public Health.
- **CDPH summarizes “Lessons learned: Guidance for clinicians” on Pandemic H1N1.** See attached document which will also be posted at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/swine/index.htm>.
- **CDC offers pandemic advice for outpatient facilities.** Recommendations include planning for high staff absenteeism, asking sick employees to stay home, providing staff with personal protective equipment, preparing business continuity plans, screening patients for febrile respiratory illnesses upon entry to facility and providing separate waiting and exam rooms for possible H1N1 flu patients. See <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm>. For reliable, up-to-date information on influenza and planning in Orange County, bookmark www.ochealthinfo.com/epi and www.healthdisasteroc.org/flu. If you did not receive this *Eye on Influenza* by email, sign up at epi@ochca.com.
- **Michigan reports on 10 intensive-care patients with severe novel H1N1 infection.** Nine of the 10 were obese, with seven being extremely obese (BMI \geq 40). Three cases died. Also of note in this case series was the predominance of males, frequency of clinically significant pulmonary emboli and multiorgan dysfunction syndrome. See www.cdc.gov/mmwr, July 17, 2009 issue. The role of obesity as a risk factor for severe influenza has not been well-characterized and is currently under investigation.
- **Six in 10 Americans believe serious H1N1 outbreak likely in fall/winter.** See Harvard School of Public Health 7/16/09 press release at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/>.
- **CDC Clinician conference call provides summary of pandemic H1N1 epidemiology and update on vaccine situation.** Powerpoint presentation available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>.
- **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) “Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2009-2010”** available at <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/FluPolicy2009-10.pdf>.



- **Next Health & Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (HEPPC) meeting focuses on pandemic H1N1 response in Orange County and current planning initiatives.** Tuesday, July 28th, 2-4 pm. For more information and to register, see <http://healthdisasteroc.org/registration/HEPPC/7-28-09/>.
- **H1N1 Regional Tabletop Exercises:** Anaheim (7/22/09), Mission Viejo (8/5/09), Garden Grove (8/25/09), Brea (9/8/09). For more information, see www.healthdisasteroc.org.
- **Save the Date – Pandemic H1N1 Countywide Summit – 10/28/09.**



If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Michele Cheung, MD MPH, at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.