

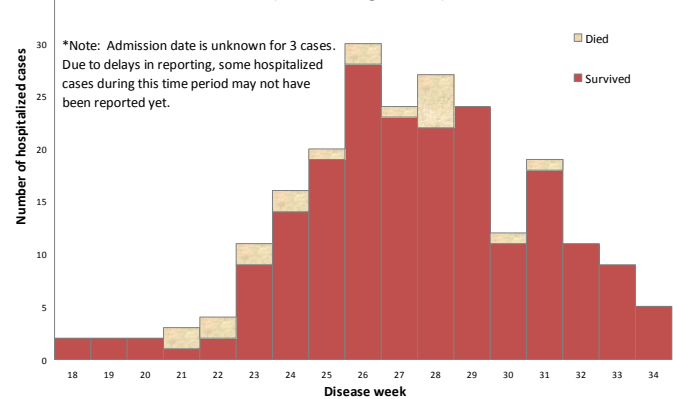


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Pandemic H1N1 (2009) Influenza Update

- Orange County (OC) update:** As of September 1, 2009, 223 hospitalized cases of pandemic H1N1 influenza and 19 fatalities have been reported in OC residents. All (100%) influenza tested at OC Public Health since early July has been pandemic H1N1.
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee recommends fit-tested N-95 respirators for healthcare workers in close contact with patients with novel H1N1 infection or influenza-like illnesses.** The committee endorses the current CDC guidelines but also recommends further research to resolve the unanswered questions on influenza transmission (in particular the potential contribution of airborne transmission) and effectiveness of personal respiratory protection in clinical settings. See <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3740/71769/72967.aspx> for IOM report and http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm for CDC infection control guidance for novel H1N1 in healthcare settings. Updated guidance is expected from CDC addressing recommendations in the context of shortages (supply was not considered in the IOM report) and from CalOSHA regarding use of airborne isolation rooms and prioritizing respirator use.
- CDC summarizes 36 novel H1N1-associated pediatric deaths through 8/8/09.** 67% of the 36 children had at least one underlying medical condition putting them at increased risk for complications from influenza, with 92% of the high-risk children having neurodevelopmental conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, developmental delay, muscular dystrophy). Bacterial co-infections were present in 10 (43%) of the children for whom lab results were provided, eight of whom were previously healthy (although one was obese). 61% of the children for whom treatment information was available received antivirals, but only 2 (11%) of these were treated within 2 days after illness onset, the time period when antivirals are thought to be most effective. Clinicians should be aware of:
 - the potential for severe influenza illness, including death, in children with neurodevelopmental conditions and/or comorbid pulmonary conditions;
 - the potential for severe bacterial infections (e.g., *S. aureus* including MRSA, *S. pneumoniae*, and *S. pyogenes*) in children with influenza; and
 - the need for prompt initiation of antiviral treatment in persons at risk for severe complications of influenza (including healthy children <5 years, especially those <2 years of age) and any person with influenza who requires hospitalization. See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr> 9/4/09 issue.
- HHS reports on pandemic H1N1 activity during the Southern Hemisphere influenza season.** Circulating strains, affected populations and severity have been similar to that in the U.S. A high proportion of cases (47-60%) had known risk factors for severe complications. Increased risk for complications in pregnant women and some indigenous populations was seen. See <http://www.flu.gov>.
- CDC updates guidance for child care programs/providers for responding to influenza in the 2009-2010 season.** Strategies for now include getting vaccinated against influenza, staying home when sick (until at least 24 hours after fever resolves without use of fever-reducing medications), conducting daily health checks, encouraging hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at all times, and performing routine environmental cleaning. See http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childcare_guidance.pdf.

2009 Reported Pandemic H1N1-Associated Hospitalizations by Disease Week of Admission for Orange County Residents through Week 34 (Week ending 8/29/09)*



Pandemic influenza H1N1 vaccine update

- State pandemic H1N1 vaccine pre-registration and ordering website now live:** see www.calpanflu.org. For questions, call 888-865-0564.
- For OC pandemic H1N1 vaccine questions, call 714-834-8560 or see www.ochealthinfo.com/h1n1.

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.