

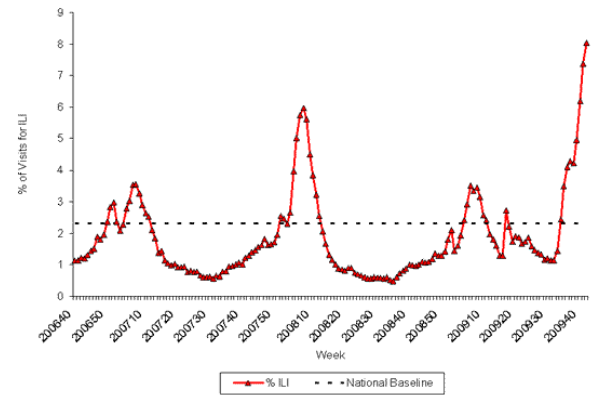


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Influenza Update – Special Edition

- **Influenza activity continues to increase.** Outpatient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) continue to escalate (graph on right), especially in younger age groups, and is now higher than what occurs during the peak of most influenza seasons. Widespread activity was reported in 48 states. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza has remained above the epidemic threshold for the past four weeks. Reports of influenza-associated deaths in children continued throughout the summer and have been increasing since the end of August. See www.cdc.gov/flu. Hospitalization rates are highest in the 0-4 year old age group.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, October 1, 2006 - October 24, 2009



- **Pregnant women should be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza.**
 - Six percent of confirmed 2009 H1N1 deaths have been pregnant women, however pregnant women make up only about one percent of the general population. Pregnant women have an increased risk of morbidity and mortality from both 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza.
 - Vaccination against influenza can reduce the risk of serious illness and complications in the pregnant women, as well as reduce the risk of illness in the newborn infant. For vaccination recommendations, see http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/pdf/Dear_Colleague_FINAL.pdf and for recent research on vaccine benefits on pregnant women, see <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/oct2909idsa2.html>.
 - CDC hotline for to clarify CDC guidance for pregnant women: Telephone consultation with a board-certified OB/GYNs will be provided for health care providers. Call 404-368-2133.
 - CDC guidance regarding the care and treatment of pregnant women: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
 - Note: women <2 weeks postpartum should now be considered high risk for influenza complications and prioritized for antiviral treatment if they develop symptoms of influenza.

Pandemic influenza H1N1 vaccine update

- Initial pandemic H1N1 vaccine doses in limited amounts have been distributed in Orange County since early October and additional doses are expected weekly.
 - The first shipment (all nasal spray vaccine) was directed to more than 90 providers (e.g., pediatricians and family practitioners) to begin reaching two initial target populations eligible to receive this vaccine formulation: healthy children 2 to 18 years of age, and healthy persons who live with or care for infants under 6 months of age.
 - OCHCA recently received over 30,000 additional doses of pH1N1 vaccine in injectable multiple dose vials and nasal spray formulations, and is completing distribution this week to provider locations to reach targeted groups (hospitals and specialty clinics, school-based H1N1 vaccination clinics, and Public Health Children's H1N1 Vaccination Clinics). See www.ochealthinfo.com/h1n1 for details.
 - Doses of thimerosal-free vaccine have been received that will be targeted for pregnant women who should call their obstetrician to get vaccinated or call the Health Referral Line 1-800-564-8448.
- Providers receiving partial shipments of orders of any particular vaccine formulation (e.g., nasal spray vaccine) will need to place a new order online to receive the balance of their original order of that formulation. Unfortunately, the CalPanFlu.org ordering system is not currently able to track the remainder of a partially filled request by formulation to fill later.
- Providers may still register to receive free pH1N1 vaccine at <http://www.CalPanFlu.org>. Registered providers will receive e-mail communication from CalPanFlu.org on actions taken regarding their orders (e.g., shipment dates, amounts shipped). The CalPanFlu pH1N1 Customer Service Center is also available at 888-865-0564.

If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Michele Cheung, MD MPH, at (714) 834-8180.

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