

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) will distribute the H1N1 Status Update Report weekly. Please forward this update to other H1N1 response and planning partners.

**Surveillance**

***Epidemiological Data:***

Current data shows that the virus is now spread regionally throughout Pennsylvania; influenza-like illness (ILI) activity continues to decrease sharply. However, the level of influenza activity remains above what is normal for this time of year.

Among confirmed cases since September 1, 2009, the age and gender breakdown is as follows:

Age Range Most Affected:	Percent of Total Cases:	Gender:	Percent of Total Cases:
0 - 4	8.6%	<b>Male</b>	<b>51.4%</b>
5 - 9	16.4%	<b>Female</b>	<b>46.6%</b>
10 - 14	21.2%	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
15 - 19	15.2%	<b>100%</b>	
20 - 29	15.1%		
30 - 39	7.9%		
40 - 49	7.5%		
50 - 59	5.6%		
60+	2.5%		
	<b>100%</b>		

(Updated November 17, 2009)

**Vaccine/Antivirals**

***Public Health Vaccination Sites for H1N1 Vaccine:***

The PA DOH offered the H1N1 vaccine to individuals in the five target groups, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at each of the 60 state health centers December 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. More than 16,500 vaccinations were administered to target group members during the three-day period.

***Vaccine:***

The following chart shows vaccine flow to Pennsylvania through December 7<sup>th</sup>:

Vaccine For PA	# of Doses Allocated	# of Projected Doses to be Received	Difference
<b>Overall Total:</b>	<b>2,940,300</b>	<b>3,773,425</b>	<b>(833,125)</b>

The following chart is a breakdown of vaccine allocated to providers through December 7<sup>th</sup>:

<b><u>Provider Category:</u></b>	<b><u>Doses Allocated:</u></b>
School/University	850,400
Hospital	654,000
Pediatrician	506,183
Primary Care	491,417
Public Health	287,600*
Federally Qualified Health Center/Rural Health Center	110,200
OB/GYN	22,500
Other	18,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,940,300</b>

\* Used to distribute vaccine to those individuals with no other resources to receive vaccine and for public health clinics scheduled 11/20-22 and 12/1-3.

### ***H1N1 Vaccine and Older Adults:***

Many people are wondering why older adults are not included in the target groups noted for priority receipt of the H1N1 vaccine. There are a few reasons for this. First, older adults are the group least likely to get sick with the 2009 H1N1 virus. The chart on page 1 of this update demonstrates this fact. In Pennsylvania, only 2.5% of people confirmed to have been infected with the 2009 H1N1 virus are older than 60. In fact, less than 16% of all confirmed Pennsylvania cases are in people older than 40.

Additionally, the CDC reports that laboratory tests on blood samples indicate that older people likely have some pre-existing immunity to the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. Older adults, although less likely to get 2009 H1N1 flu, are more likely to have complications if infected; therefore, this group is one of the priority groups for receiving anti-viral treatment if they get flu.

As soon as the H1N1 vaccine becomes more readily available, all persons wishing to be vaccinated will have the opportunity.

## **Communications**

### ***H1N1 Phishing Scam:***

The PA DOH urges computer users not to open a fraudulent e-mail that claims to be from the CDC asking individuals to create a "personal H1N1 vaccination profile."

Anyone receiving this e-mail should not open it and delete it immediately. The fraudulent e-mail links to a fake Web site that attempts to collect personal information. Clicking on the embedded link in the e-mail puts users at risk of having a malicious code installed on their computer.

Some Pennsylvanians have coincidentally received this e-mail after registering for the PA DOH's H1N1 vaccine clinics, but there is no relation. Pennsylvania's online vaccine registration system is safe to use and does not ask registrants to provide any personal information other than their name.

For more information, please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/hoaxes\\_rumors.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hoaxes_rumors.html).

### ***H1N1 Marketing Campaigns:***

This week, the PA DOH kicked off a campaign targeting businesses and their employees. The overall messaging encourages employers to have contingency plans in place (i.e. working from home, calling-in) if employees get sick or have to care for a family member. Posters will be made available for businesses to display at their locations and can be ordered free of charge at <http://www.h1n1inpa.com/info-for-specific-groups/information-for-workplaces-and-employers/communication-toolkit/>.

Also, a video has been produced for healthcare workers dispelling many myths about flu vaccine. The video can now be ordered on the H1N1 site. The video will also be available for download, in the near future.

Don't forget to follow us on **Twitter** <http://twitter.com/h1n1inpa> and **Facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harrisburg-PA/Stopping-H1N1-in-PA/173959347528?ref=nf>.

### ***H1N1 Web site:***

The [www.H1N1inPA.com](http://www.H1N1inPA.com) web site is updated frequently each day, so please visit often for new information, links and options. All media releases and downloadable campaign materials can be accessed by following the "Newsroom" link at the top right hand corner of the homepage.

## **Community Mitigation**

### ***Limiting Spread of Germs:***

Community mitigation is crucial in slowing the spread of H1N1 through the fall. Community mitigation generally involves little or no money, but can offer substantial disease reduction. Strategies consist of basic, everyday approaches to limit the spread of germs such as frequent hand washing.



## Questions and Answers

For answers to these question and more, please go to [www.H1N1inPA.com](http://www.H1N1inPA.com) and click on "Frequently Asked Questions."

**Question:** *If a school hasn't received vaccine yet, should they cancel potential clinic dates since the PA DOH has run clinics for the public?*

**Answer:** No. Schools that have ordered vaccine, but have not received it yet, should contact the PA DOH District Office in their region near the time that they plan on holding clinics.

Additionally, schools should not cancel clinics they were planning to hold as youth may not have been able to attend the public health H1N1 vaccination clinics.

**Question:** *I plan on traveling over the holiday season. Are there any precautions I should take?*

**Answer:** The most important step people can take is to refrain from travel if they are ill. Additionally, the CDC is urging people to take the following steps when planning their travel and to stay informed about what to do if they get sick while they're gone, including:

- Traveling only when they are feeling well.
- Getting vaccinated for flu (both seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 if they are in a priority group).
- Washing hands often.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.

**Question:** *My children and I have all been sick over the last two weeks with flu-like symptoms. If we have already possibly had swine flu, do we really need to put our kids through the shot(s)?*

**Answer:** A flu-like illness could be caused by a wide array of viruses, not just H1N1. Unless the doctor actually tested your children for H1N1 and the test came back positive, your child should get the H1N1 vaccine. Most people who've had flu-like illness since April have not been tested.

**Question:** *My child is under 10 years old and is ready to receive his/her second dose of H1N1 vaccine. Does it have to be the same type of vaccine as the first dose?*

**Answer:** If the first dose was injectable, it does not matter what type the second dose is. If the first dose was the LAIV, or nasal spray, it is preferred that the second dose be the same. However, if the nasal spray is not available for the second dose, injection will be considered valid. The two doses of H1N1 vaccine, regardless of type received, should be 28 days apart or longer.

*If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to submit those to the following email address: [PADOH\\_H1N1@state.pa.us](mailto:PADOH_H1N1@state.pa.us). Responses will be addressed in this document, as individual responses will not be possible.*

*If you have any specific questions to be answered more quickly, please call 1-877-PA HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).*