

THIS WEEK WITH A(H1N1)

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A (H1N1) NATIONAL TRENDS

- This week 46 states reported widespread A(H1N1) activity.
- Widespread activity in 46 states' means, in the last 7 weeks, A(H1N1) has spread to over half the regions in the majority of states.
- The number of states reporting widespread A(H1N1) activity increased by 5 from last week.
- The US Virgin Inlands is the only US territory or state reporting no A(H1N1) activity this week.
- Widespread activity does not mean that the A(H1N1) flu virus has become more severe or lethal. Most people who contract the A(H1N1) flu recover without additional medical support.
- The A(H1N1) flu virus is very, very contagious and can easily make healthy people ill.
- CDC notes that the A(H1N1) flu virus is the only A-type influenza circulating at this time.
- Internationally A(H1N1) is the prominent flu strain circulating throughout the world.
- Consequently, anyone coughing or complaining of flu-like symptoms likely has a mild form of A(H1N1).
- Fortunately, the genetic and viral composition of the present A(H1N1) flu strain has not changed, and remains similar to the A(H1N1) virus that circulated last spring.
- Because A(H1N1) virus has not changed, A(H1N1) antiviral drugs, with rare exceptions, are still effective.
- No severe health problems were reported this week from healthcare, emergency services workers, and some children, vaccinated against A(H1N1).
- On October 23rd, HHS announced that slightly more than one-third of the supply of A(H1N1) vaccine, originally forecasted, is currently available.
- CDC announced that 16 million doses of A(H1N1) vaccine may be ready for distribution around the end of October. Earlier, CDC announced that 42 million doses of the A(H1N1) vaccine would be ready in mid-October.
- Visits to physicians by people complaining of flu-like symptoms increased noticeably this week from last week.
- In some states, physician visits from patients complaining of flu-like symptoms are higher than the number of similar physician visits at the peak of the annual flu season.
- This week the number of A(H1N1) hospitalizations continued to climb.
- This week's number of hospitalizations is higher than the amount expected for this time of year.
- For the second week in a row, the number of deaths, in urban areas, from pneumonia and severe influenza – complications from an A(H1N1) infection -- increased.

- Eleven (11) young children died of A(H1N1) this week; the same number as last week
- **The number of deaths from A(H1N1) this week exceeds what is normally expected for this time of year for the second week in a row.**
- **DHS reports that the number of A(H1N1) deaths, this week, exceeds the death-rate threshold for epidemics.**

A(H1N1) -- NATIONAL HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS, counted from September 1, 2009 (7 weeks)

Hospitalizations – persons, so ill with A(H1N1) they are unable to breathe independently of respirators/ventilators

- For the week ending October 23rd, DHS reports: **30,027**
- This week 9,373 persons were hospitalized infected with A(H1N1) virus (an increase of more than 50% from last week)

Deaths- persons whose death is attributed to A(H1N1)

- For the week ending October 23rd, DHS reports: **2,827**
- **506 persons died this week from the A(H1N1) virus (an increase of more than 50% from last week)**
- The number of persons who have a mild case of A(H1N1) flu is much larger than the hospitalization and death figures.

A(H1N1) - REGIONAL ACTIVITY

The 3 HHS regions having the highest influenza activity this week are:

Region 3 Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

For this week, CDC reports that in Region 3 the number of persons reporting flu symptoms at hospital emergency rooms and to select physicians is almost 50% of all visits. (49.4%) Last week's rate: 32.2%

Region 7 Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

For this week, CDC reports in Region 7 the number of persons reporting influenza symptoms in hospital emergency rooms and to select physicians is slightly under 50% of all visits. (45.4%) Last week's rate: 38.8%

Region 5 Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

For this week, CDC reports that in Region 5 the average number of persons reporting flu symptoms to hospital emergency rooms and to select physicians is slightly over one-third of all visits (37.3%) Last week's rate: 27.1%

WATCH: HHS Regions where influenza activity is increasing are:

Region 8 Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Region 4 Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Region 6 Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Also Watch --

Region 1 and Region 2 reported this week increases in influenza activity from last week, though the amount of overall flu activity in their regions remains below 10%.

Region 9 and Region 10 reported this week decreases in influenza activity from last week, though the amount of flu activity in their regions remains relatively high (Region 9: 24.3%; Region 10: 36.8%)

LOCATION: Highest Numbers of A(A(H1N1)) Activity counted from Sept 1, 2009

Region 3

Delaware - Delaware Health Department counts the number of state-wide confirmed cases of A(H1N1).

- This week the number of Delaware A(H1N1) cases is 578.
- Last week the number of A(H1N1) cases was 484.
- There was over 20% increase of A(H1N1) cases from last to this week.

District of Columbia - District Health Department counts the number of A(H1N1) hospitalizations in Washington, DC. The number of hospitalizations, reported by the Health Department has not changed in several weeks (1 hospitalization from A(H1N1))

Maryland - Maryland Health Department counts the number of state-wide patients reporting flu-like symptoms to hospital emergency rooms, hospitalizations and cases reported by Maryland citizens to the Department.

- The statistically significant percentage of patients reporting flu-like symptoms increased from under 4%, the previous week, to 6%, this week.
- One percent (1%) is the national percentage for this time of year.
- The number of flu cases, reported by Maryland resident influenza tracking system, nearly doubled from last week.
- At this time of year, few flu cases are reported.

- This week's number of state-wide hospitalizations for influenza decreased from last week.

Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania Health Department counts the number of A(H1N1) cases, and the number of A(H1N1) deaths in each county.

- This week Pennsylvania did not post the state's most recent A(H1N1) surveillance information
- Last week Pennsylvania stated that following 3 counties have the highest number of A(H1N1) cases. County name is followed by its major city, in parenthesis.
 - Philadelphia (City of Philadelphia)
 - Allegheny (Pittsburg)
 - Montgomery (Washington, DC)

Virginia - Virginia Health Department counts a representative percentage of patients reporting flu-like symptoms at hospital emergency rooms, at urgent care facilities and to select physicians.

- This week, the Department reported that, in approximately 7/8ths of the state's Health Districts, the representative percentage of patients complaining of flu-like symptoms at hospital emergency rooms, urgent care facilities and to select physicians was higher than 4.50%
- Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun counties and the City of Alexandria has 4 times the percentage of patients complaining of flu-like symptoms than what is expected for this time of year.
- One percent (1%) is the expected national percentage of patients complaining of flu symptoms, for this time of year.

West Virginia - West Virginia Health Department counts the number of state-wide flu--like illnesses cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

- This week's number of flu-like illnesses is slightly less than the highest number of flu illnesses found in recent annual influenza seasons.
- The number of hospitalizations from flu-like illness in West Virginia increased by almost 25% from last week.

Region 7

Iowa - Iowa Health Department counts the percentage of state-wide visits to hospital emergency rooms by persons complaining of flu-like symptoms.

- This week the percentage of Iowans visiting hospital emergency rooms, complaining of flu-like symptoms, are almost five (5) times higher than the percentage expected this time of year.
- Last week the percentage was slightly under 3 times.
- Iowa Health Department counts the percentage of school absents, state-wide, due to illness.

- This week the percentage of school absents was more than double the normal percentage of school absents.
- Last week the percentage of Iowa school absents was less than twice the normal number.
- Iowa Health Department counts the number of persons, hospitalized, state-wide, with confirmed A (H1N1) cases.
- Since September 1st, 71 Iowans have been hospitalized, infected with A (H1N1).
- Last week's hospitalization number was 35.
- The number of Iowans hospitalized with A (H1N1) doubled from last to this week.
- Iowa counts the number of state-wide deaths from A (H1N1).
- Since September 1st, 4 Iowans have died infected with A (H1N1).
- Last week the number of deaths was 2.
- The number of A (H1N1) deaths doubled this week from last week.
- Iowa counties having the highest number of A (H1N1) cases since September 1st are, County name is followed by major city(ies), in parenthesis:
 - Polk (Des Moines)
 - Cedar (Tipton, Durant, Wilton)
 - Des Moines (Burlington, Middletown)
 - Woodbury (Sioux City)

Kansas - The Kansas Health Department posted a map showing that approximately 80 % of its counties have confirmed A(H1N1) cases.

Missouri - Missouri Health Department counts the number of confirmed A(H1N1) cases, reported by selected physicians and; the number of A(H1N1) hospitalizations and deaths.

- Since April, 2009 Missouri has had 4,695 persons infected by influenza A.
- The average number of influenza A flu cases in Missouri each annual flu season is 9.
- The number of reported influenza A cases from April, 2009 is 'significantly higher than previous 4 influenza seasons.'
- This week 9 Missouri schools closed; none closed this time last fall. Four (4) Missouri schools closed last week. This week the number of school closings doubled.
- The vast majority of all Missouri A(H1N1) cases occur in the following jurisdiction name is followed with its major city(ies), in parenthesis.
 - Phelps (St. James, Newburg, Edgar Springs) - 3 times the state number of ER patients complaining of flu symptoms (27%)
 - Callaway (Jefferson City) - Almost 3 times the state number of ER patients complaining of flu symptoms (25%)
 - Howell (Jackson. West Plains) - Almost 2 times the state number of patients complaining of Flu symptoms (17.1%)

Nebraska - Nebraska Health Department reported 817 new cases of A(H1N1).

- Last week the Department reported 375 new A(H1N1) cases.
- This week's number of A(H1N1) cases is over double the number of last week's cases.
- Over half of Nebraska's A(H1N1) cases occurred in 3 Health Districts.
- Health District name is followed by its major city/ies, in parenthesis.
 - Southwest (Red Willow, Hitchcock, Frontier)
 - Southeast (Lincoln)
 - Lancaster (University of Nebraska)