

Monroe County Department of Public Health

Flu Update #2
September 29, 2009

○ **Influenza surveillance:**

The Monroe County Department of Public Health in collaboration of the Rochester Emerging Infection Program collects data on all influenza cases reported by the microbiology Labs in Monroe County and emergency room surveillance for ILI. So far only a handful of influenza A cases have been reported over the past 4 weeks. A rise in the number of cases is expected in the next few weeks based on the pattern of spread of influenza in the US.

The results of the surveillance will be updated weekly and will be available at:

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-clinicians.php>

○ **Influenza testing:**

Testing is only recommended for severe or hospitalized cases or when testing will affect the patient management (such as for treatment of high risk patients, of differentiation between influenza and other respiratory viruses early during the Flu season). Please note that the sensitivity of the rapid antigen test is <50%, so a negative rapid test does not rule out infection.

Only positive Flu A isolates from hospitalized patients will be approved by the NYSDOH for confirmatory testing for 2009 H1N1. So far 99% of the flu isolates tested by the CDC are due to the 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus.

○ **Influenza treatment:**

Antiviral treatment is **recommended** for the following patients:

1. Patients hospitalized with confirmed or suspected influenza
2. Patients with milder presentation of influenza infection AND who are at high risk for influenza complications

Clinical judgment is important factor in treatment decisions and treatment should promptly be started in any patient presenting with lower respiratory tract symptoms such as shortness of breath.

For more information on treatment and prophylaxis, please refer to the guidance from NYSDOH and CDC links on the MCDPH website.

○ **Vaccine:**

Thank you to all the practices and hospital that pre-registered to order the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.

On October 2nd, the NYSDOH will share with the MCDPH the list of all pre-registered practices. Some practices will eventually be chosen as direct “ship to” sites. Practices that are not approved for direct shipment will be able to obtain vaccine from the MCDPH and from their affiliated hospital pharmacies. The target date for vaccine shipment is still pending. The MCDPH is also setting up several large vaccination clinics to assist in vaccinating the target population.

○ **The 5 targets vaccine groups are:**

1. Pregnant women
2. People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
3. People aged 6 months-24 years
4. Adults 25-64 years with high risks medical conditions predisposing for severe influenza illness
5. Healthcare workers and emergency medical services personnel

○ **Vaccination of people who had an ILI or influenza infection this spring:**

People who developed ILI or had influenza A infection during the spring will need to receive the vaccine if they are in a target population. Exception is for non-immunocompromised people with influenza A infections confirmed by PCR testing for the 2009 H1N1 flu A virus. There is no harm in vaccinating people who had a previous 2009 H1N1 infection.