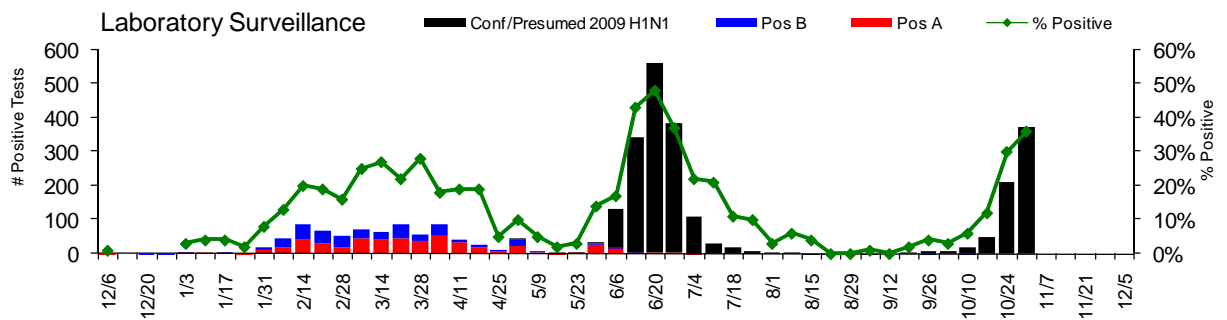


Nov 4th, 2009

- Influenza is widespread in Monroe County with secondary increase in the numbers of cases of influenza-like-illness in emergency rooms and physician offices and an increase in the school absenteeism.
- The severity of illness has not changed, few cases have been hospitalized, and none have died. The majority of cases are younger than 17 years.
- We are receiving many inquiries regarding school absenteeism, since only a small number of schools are reporting their school absenteeism to the NYSDOH; the available information is limited and not included in the surveillance report. Surveillance data is posted on the following link: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-clinicians.php>



Number of lab confirmed influenza cases since Jan 2009

Vaccine distribution:

- Two weeks ago, the NYSDOH sent the first shipment of vaccine to some practices without ordering in an effort to get some vaccine out. Priority was given to pediatric and OB practices based on their self reported practice size. Since then, a large number of practitioners have placed orders. Because of the delay in vaccine availability only half of the 250 ordering practices have been approved for vaccine shipment. So far 54,000 doses have been distributed in Monroe County.
- Estimates of future weekly doses to the county are as follows:
 - 30 Oct – 24,000
 - 06 Nov – 28,000
 - 13 Nov – 20,000
 - 20 Nov – 23,000
 - 27 Nov – 17,200
 - 04 Dec – 44,500
 - 11 Dec – 28,400
 - 18 Dec – 20,900
 - 25 Dec – 48,000
- The NYSDOH distribution scheme is as follow: First, each county is assigned a per capita amount of each vaccine formulation available. Then, within each county, orders are approved for shipment to sites based on orders received

going down the list based on order size and priority population as reported on the initial registration form. To spread the vaccine as widely as possible, most orders currently are being filled for 100-200 doses. See attached communication from Commissioner Daines for details.

- Of note, the State Health Commissioner temporarily waived the state law requiring that only thimerosal-free flu vaccines be used for children under 3 years and pregnant women (see attached document).
- The Monroe County Department of Public Health is presently re-distributing the small amount of vaccine it received to practices that were not approved for vaccine shipment. Priority is given to practices serving pregnant women and children. Once sufficient amount of vaccine is available mass vaccination clinics will take place. The dates of the clinics are pending.
- Some practices received the wrong supplies with their vaccine; the CDC is aware of this ancillary supply problem and will be addressing it in the near future.

Recommendations for treatment:

- Treatment with antivirals is recommended for patients with an increased risk of severe influenza complications and for any hospitalized patients or patients with signs of lower respiratory infection such as shortness of breath. The recommendations for treatment now include post partum women within the 2 weeks of delivery.
- Treatment should be initiated empirically prior to the availability of the flu test result. Negative rapid antigen test does not rule out infection since the sensitivity of rapid influenza diagnostic tests for 2009 H1N1 virus can range from 10% to 70%, indicating that false negative results occur frequently. For detailed information regarding antiviral treatment check link: <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/HAN/101909.htm>
- Available supply of oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) suspension is limited. Only some pharmacies can use oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) capsules to prepare a suspension. Please advise the parents to first inquire if their pharmacy has the suspension of oseltamivir. Here is the listing of some pharmacies capable of preparing the suspension: Wegmans, Walgreens, Tops and Strong Memorial Hospital.
- For more information on H1N1 vaccine and antiviral treatment please check the updated document from NYSDOH http://nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/health_care_providers/guidance/docs/2009-10-26_health_advisory_guidance_for_the_2009-2010_influenza_season.pdf and the CDC website <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/>

- Flu triage algorithms from the CDC are available for adult and pediatric patients: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-clinicians.php>

For questions you could reach us at flu@monroecounty.gov or for urgent questions: 585 753-5164

Sincerely,

Ghinwa Dumyati, MD
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