



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

October 19, 2009

MEDICAL ADVISORY: Update on 2009 Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic and Hawai'i Response

Dear Hawai'i Healthcare Provider,

This advisory is an update on the ongoing influenza pandemic, associated guidelines, and the progress of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccination campaign in Hawai'i. Clinicians are encouraged to refer to previous advisories and the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) 2009 H1N1 website¹ for further information.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI)² and 2009 H1N1 Disease Activity

ILI surveillance in Hawai'i, as in other states, relies on reporting by a stable group of statewide sentinel providers. For now, ILI activity in Hawai'i³ remains at the regular expected level for this time of year. In contrast, the U.S. mainland is experiencing widespread ILI activity. ILI trends in Hawai'i have always tended to lag behind the mainland. Therefore, it is likely that the same increased activity will be observed here eventually unless prevention measures can successfully mitigate a second pandemic wave.

Almost all (99%) influenza A positive cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are being identified as influenza A (H1N1). In Hawai'i, 2009 H1N1 virus also dominates, but a small number of cases of seasonal influenza infection, specifically A (H3), are being identified.

With increased ILI activity on the mainland, there have also been increased reports of pediatric deaths.⁴ Clinicians are reminded that pediatric influenza-related deaths are nationally reportable. Deaths among obstetrical patients also continue to occur disproportionate to their representation in the population. The typical report is that of an uncharacteristic rapid decompensation secondary to acute respiratory distress syndrome from primary viral hemorrhagic pneumonia in an otherwise healthy woman. Continued dependence by physicians on a negative rapid influenza antigen test contributed to delayed empiric treatment in some cases. High risk groups should be empirically treated with an antiviral if their symptoms are consistent with ILI.⁵ In addition, HDOH requests that all clinicians report any suspect influenza cases among hospitalized, especially pediatric and obstetrical, patients via the contact numbers at the end of this advisory.

2009 H1N1 Pandemic Vaccination Campaign

Distribution of the 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccine pro rata to all states, including Hawai'i (0.42% of nation's population), began in the first week of October in limited amounts and presentations. HDOH anticipates that doses will continue to be allocated for the next few weeks in limited quantities as the manufacturers have been experiencing production delays. HDOH is working to distribute the limited vaccine across the state to ensure that all priority groups have as equitable as possible vaccine access. Although eventually all persons should be vaccinated, the following groups should be given priority (in

¹ <http://flu.hawaii.gov/>; previous advisories may be found under the "Clinician" tab in the left tab menu.

² Fever (T>100.0°F) plus cough or sore throat.

³ <http://flu.hawaii.gov/health/family-child-health/contagious-disease/influenza/Influenza%20Reports/Influenza%20Surveillance%20Weeks%2038-39%202009.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#MS>, note under Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality

⁵ Refer to previous advisory (http://hawaii.gov/health/about/healthalerts/28Sep09%20MedAdvisory_2009H1N1VaxUpdate.pdf) and the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/recommendations.htm>) for more information regarding antiviral recommendations.

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October 19, 2009

Page 2 of 2

no specific order):

- Pregnant women;
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than age 6 months;
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact;
- All people from age 6 months through 24 years; and,
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Completion of H1N1 vaccine providers' orders is subject to vaccine availability as well as the presentation ordered. For example, many practices did not order nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), and some only ordered preservative-free injectable monovalent inactivated influenza vaccine (MIV). Given the limited amounts of MIV and especially preservative-free MIV at this time, preference would be given to providers who ordered the currently available presentations. Also, note that the state has yet to be allocated the infant and toddler dose (i.e., 0.25 ml) MIV presentation.

Clinicians are reminded that administration of seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccines simultaneously or with any interval between doses is permissible, EXCEPT when administering nasal spray LAIV of both seasonal and H1N1 influenza, in which case four weeks should ideally separate the two LAIV doses.⁶ Note that the school influenza vaccination schedules, both seasonal and H1N1, have been posted on the respective websites⁷ to facilitate strategizing dosing intervals for children, especially those under age 10 years who will need two 2009 H1N1 doses.

If you have any questions regarding 2009 H1N1 recommendations or case reporting, please contact HDOH at the numbers below:

- O'ahu (Disease Investigation Branch) (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office (808) 984-8213
- Kaua'i District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877

- After hours on O'ahu (808) 566-5049
- After hours on neighbor islands..... 1(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate the partnership of the medical community in preventing all influenza infections and protecting the health of the people of Hawai'i. Together we may prevent or mitigate the impact of a second wave of the current 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist
Hawai'i Department of Health

⁶ Refer to the previous advisory (http://hawaii.gov/health/about/healthalerts/28Sep09%20MedAdvisory_2009H1N1VaxUpdate.pdf) and the CDC website (http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians_qa.htm) for more information regarding H1N1 vaccination.

⁷ For school-located seasonal influenza vaccinations, refer to <http://www.flu.hawaii.gov/family-child-health/contagious-disease/communications/fluvoxforkids.html%20#schedule>; for the school-located 2009 H1N1 vaccinations, refer to <http://www.flu.hawaii.gov/flu-hawaii-gov/vaccination.html#schedule>.