Internationally

Current WHO alert level remains at Phase 5. Phase 5 is characterized by larger clusters but human-to-human spread is still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible and indicates a substantial risk of pandemic. However, this does not necessarily mean a pandemic is a foregone conclusion.

Internationally, at least 2,371 total human cases of Influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in 24 countries.

Nationally

CDC has issued guidance for health care providers on the use of antiviral medications during the current outbreak. The priority use for influenza antiviral drugs is to treat severe influenza illness and people who are at high risk of serious influenza-related conditions. CDC’s response goals are to reduce spread and illness severity, and provide information to help health care providers; public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this emergency.

CDC has developed a PCR diagnostic test kit to detect this novel H1N1 virus and has now distributed test kits to all states in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The test kits are being shipped internationally as well (78 countries). This will allow states and other countries to test for this new virus. This increase in testing capacity is likely to result in an increase in the number of reported confirmed cases in this country, which should provide a more accurate picture of the burden of disease in the United States.

The ongoing outbreak of novel influenza A (H1N1) continues to expand in the United States. As of May 7, 2009, 11:00 a.m., the CDC is reporting 896 laboratory confirmed cases of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus across 41 states. Two deaths in the US have been confirmed in Texas. 42 (5%) confirmed cases have been hospitalized.

State Confirmed Cases Deaths:

Alabama 4
Arizona 48
California 106
Colorado 17
Connecticut 4
Delaware 38
Florida 5
Georgia 3
Hawaii 3
Idaho 1
Illinois 204
Indiana 15
Iowa 5
Kansas 7  
Kentucky* 2  
Louisiana 7  
Maine 4  
Maryland 4  
Massachusetts 71  
Michigan 9  
Minnesota 1  
Missouri 4  
Nebraska 4  
Nevada 5  
New Hampshire 2  
New Jersey 7  
New Mexico 8  
New York 98  
North Carolina 7  
Ohio 5  
Oklahoma 1  
Oregon 15  
Pennsylvania 2  
Rhode Island 2  
South Carolina 17  
Tennessee 2  
Texas 91 2  
Utah 8  
Virginia 11  
Washington 23  
Wisconsin 26  
Total: 896 2

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it has approved Sanofi Pasteur, located in Swiftwater PA, as a new manufacturing facility to produce influenza virus vaccines. The facility is approved for seasonal influenza vaccine production and could be used for the production of vaccine against the new 2009 H1N1 influenza strain.

Statewide Disease Investigation

Confirmed Cases Probable Cases  
Pennsylvania 223  
Total: 223

As of May 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Pennsylvania has two confirmed cases of 2009 Novel Influenza A (H1N1) virus located in Montgomery (2) county and 23 probable cases located in the following counties: Cambria (1), Lehigh (1), Philadelphia (8), Montgomery (1), Lycoming (1), Luzerne (1), Bucks (2), Allegheny (1), Chester (2), Franklin (1), Mercer (1), Westmoreland (1), Adams (1), and York (1) counties.
Active surveillance and investigation of suspected cases continue and the PA DOH will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The PA DOH has activated its Influenza Pandemic Response Plan. The PA DOH established a departmental Task Force that meets daily to discuss the Department’s Influenza A (H1N1) virus mitigation and response strategy.

The PA DOH State Laboratory is continually testing samples received and reporting the results to the PA DOH Bureau of Epidemiology for tracking purposes.

Communications

The PA DOH website, www.health.state.pa.us, is updated several times daily and has a link to www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us, and the CDC swine 2009 H1N1 flu webpage, www.cdc.gov/swineflu. The information includes items for the general public, clinicians, laboratories, and public and animal health officials. This site also includes interim guidance documents.

The PA DOH Communications Office is coordinating public information and risk communication for this event and is educating the public and health care providers on the 2009 Novel Influenza A (H1N1) virus.

The PA DOH Bureau of Community Health Systems is working locally out of the six District Offices to provide education, assistance, and guidance to the communities they serve, as well as to respond to 1-877-PA-HEALTH calls. (117 calls received today).

Guidance

The PA Health Alert Network (PA HAN) released several health advisories which are posted on the PA DOH website. The advisories provide guidance regarding the use of antiviral medications and an algorithm for diagnostic testing. Health care providers and facilities with questions about the CDC or PA DOH recommendations can contact your local health department or 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

The PA Department of Health recommends that all 911 center and Emergency Services organizations within the Commonwealth follow the directions of the Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected – Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Infection until such time CDC updates or changes the guidance.

The following interim guidance documents have been newly released by the CDC:
  * School (K – 12) and Childcare Facilities
  * Antiviral Recommendations

Antiviral medication

PA received the requested 25% of antivirals, respiratory protection, and personal protective equipment from the CDC Strategic National Stockpile that was pre-allocated to the Commonwealth. Added to the
antivirals the Commonwealth has already stockpiled, this brings the total number to approximately 1.8 million courses.

The PA DOH released an Interim Antiviral Stockpile Distribution Plan, dated 5/1/09. The PA DOH continues to review and revise the plan to reflect the CDC’s antiviral distribution guidance.

Department Operations Center (DOC)

The PA DOH DOC will operate daily from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Division of School Health

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