



H1N1 Weekly Update #1 7/31/2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Public Health Public Information Officers

Chris Partis, Akron Health – 330-375-2453, partiCh@ci.akron.oh.us

Jessie Wingert, Barberton Health – 330-861-7175, jwingert@barbertonhealth.org

Donna Skoda, Summit County – 330-926-5654, dskoda@schd.org

Summit County, Ohio- Influenza activity is still present in Summit County although it appears to be a bit lower this week. Influenza activity in Ohio is still at the sporadic level; this activity level defines geographic distribution and does not relate to the number of cases or severity of illness. The United States is still seeing influenza across the country. Over 99% of all subtyped influenza reported to CDC was 2009 pandemic A (H1N1). Approximately 0.6% of all the subtyped influenza was seasonal influenza (0.2% H1, 0.3% H3 and 0.1% B).

As of July 24, 2009, the CDC reported 43,771 confirmed and probable 2009 pandemic A (H1N1) influenza cases from all 50 states, DC, and territories with 302 deaths. This will be the last week that the CDC reports total and probable cases. It will continue to report deaths and hospitalizations and will monitor influenza activity by its usual surveillance methods. The website for CDC information is <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

As of July 13, 2009, the World Health Organization is no longer requiring countries with community wide 2009 pandemic A (H1N1) influenza transmission to submit regular reports. On July 24, the WHO reported that the number of influenza cases is increasing substantially even in countries that have been affected for some time. In most countries the influenza is still occurring in younger people but there are indications that the average age is beginning to increase slightly. The WHO website is <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

As July 24, 2009, the Ohio Department of Health reported 198 confirmed 2009 pandemic A (H1N1) cases (increase of 21 cases from the previous weeks in Ohio). There has been 1 death in Ohio. The ODH website gives complete Ohio influenza information: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/phs_emergency/swineflu.aspx

Summit County has had 11 confirmed 2009 pandemic A (H1N1) influenza cases (increase of 2 from the previous week). The age range of Summit County cases has been from 1 month to 53 years with a median age of 30 and an average age of 27.9. The confirmed cases have occurred in 6 females and 5 males. The health departments continue to receive reports of influenza-like illnesses from physician offices.

Ongoing analysis of available epidemiological data will guide decisions about features of the vaccination program. These decisions will be made in collaboration with expert panels and with input from the public. For example, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will provide specific vaccination recommendations, including specific target populations and priorities for circumstances of limited or phased vaccine supply. In addition, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee will provide

guidance on implementation and evaluation of vaccine safety. A public engagement effort will also seek input from citizens from several regions around the country about these matters. While additional data are collected and reviewed, state and local public health authorities need to accelerate their outreach to health care providers, the private sector, occupational groups, and others to put in place mechanisms and to develop vaccination venues appropriate to reach groups most likely to be included in a vaccination program against pandemic H1N1 influenza.

Please check the websites of the three health departments for information.

Summit County Health District: www.schd.org; Akron Health Department: www.ci.akron.oh.us;

Barberton Health District: www.barbertonhealth.org

Now that the H1N1 Influenza A (Swine)Virus is present within our community please always remember to observe proper cough and sneeze etiquette by covering your nose and mouth while coughing or sneezing, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you are ill.

H1N1 Influenza A (Swine) hotlines available for the public to call:

Ohio Department of Health 1-866-800-1404 (staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

The Centers for Disease Control 1-800-CDC-INFO

If you have questions or concerns to please use a credible websites to locate information on H1N1 Influenza A (Swine) such as www.cdc.gov or www.odh.ohio.gov. The hotlines are also available for continual and up to date information on the H1N1 Influenza A (Swine).

###

