



H1N1 Weekly Update #2 8/7/2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County - Influenza activity is still present in Summit County although it appears to be lower this week. Influenza activity in Ohio is still at the sporadic activity 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 although the activity has declined. Over 98% of all subtyped influenza labs reported to CDC was 2009 pandemic A(H1N1).

Since July 31, 2009, the CDC has only been only reporting cumulative H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths. The CDC estimates that there have been over one million 2009 pandemic A H1N1 influenza cases in the United States. The number of cumulative hospitalizations is 5,514 and the number of reported deaths is 353. The website for CDC information is <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. The CDC has issued “Interim Guidance for the Detection of Novel Influenza A Virus Using Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests”. This document provides an overview of the sensitivities of rapid influenza diagnostic tests in detecting novel influenza A (H1N1) virus and can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm.

On Aug. 5, 2009, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) changed the way it reports H1N1 influenza activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the public to mirror surveillance of seasonal influenza. Individual cases will no longer be reported. For more information on this reporting change, please see the [journal entry](#) ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., signed July 27, and a [memo](#) provided to public health colleagues Aug. 5.

The Ohio H1N1 (swine flu) Information line is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 1-866-800-1404 for answers to your questions about swine flu. [Listen](#) for an audio recording of a sampling of calls. The ODH website gives complete Ohio influenza information: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/phs_emergency/swineflu.aspx.

Summit County has had 14 confirmed 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) influenza cases in 2009 (an increase of two case from the previous week). There are no suspect cases awaiting testing results by the Ohio Department of Health laboratories. The health departments continue to receive reports of influenza-like illnesses from physician offices.

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

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

Barberton Health District: www.barbertonhealth.org

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