



H1N1 Weekly Update #3 8/14/2009

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, diskoda@schd.org

Summit County - Influenza activity is still present in Summit County although it continues to decline. Over the last month the number of influenza laboratory tests done by the reporting sites has decreased. For this reporting week, there were four positive laboratory tests (positivity rate = 10%). There were 3 confirmed influenza hospitalizations reported for this week. The percentage of emergency department visits made for respiratory and constitutional complaints was 13.8% (last week 15.3%). All schools remain in summer recess, but reporting continues from one workshop.

On August 10, 2009, the CDC released an updated interim guidance for General Business and Workplace Guidance for the prevention of H1N1 in workers. This guidance is to provide clarification on privacy issues surrounding the disclosure of information to employees during a pandemic. For the full article please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/workplace.htm>.

Since July 31, 2009, the CDC has only been reporting cumulative H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths. The number of cumulative hospitalizations is 6,506 and the number of reported deaths is 436. The website for CDC information is <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. The CDC has issued new guidance for schools (k-12) on its website. The most significant change is that individuals with influenza-like illness should remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications. This is a reduction from the previous recommendation to stay home for 7 days after onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

As of August 5, 2009, the Ohio Department of Health, in accordance with CDC guidelines, discontinued individual reporting of 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) cases. They will monitor overall influenza activity via established influenza surveillance methods. Ohio's current influenza activity level is at **sporadic activity**. The activity level defines geographic distribution. It does not relate to the number of cases or severity of illness. 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.

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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