



## General Public Bulletin #4

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### **2009 Pandemic A H1N1 Influenza Summary – August 21, 2009**

Influenza activity is still present in Summit County although it continues to decline. For this reporting week, there were three positive laboratory tests (positivity rate = 10%). There were no confirmed influenza hospitalizations reported for this week. The percentage of emergency department visits made for respiratory and constitutional complaints was 14% (last week 13.8%). All schools are closed for the summer but reporting continues from one workshop. Summit County has had 14 confirmed 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) influenza cases.

As of July 13, 2009, the World Health Organization no longer required countries with community wide 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) influenza transmission to submit regular reports. There have been 170 countries and territories reporting at least one case on 2009 pandemic A H1N1 influenza. The WHO website is <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

As 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 influenza activity level is still at **sporadic activity**. The activity level defines geographic distribution. It does not relate to the number of cases or severity of illness. Summit County has had 14 confirmed 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) influenza cases.

The ODH website gives complete Ohio influenza information:  
[http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/phs\\_emergency/swineflu.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/phs_emergency/swineflu.aspx).

As of August 14, 2009, the CDC is 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 7511 and the number of reported deaths is 477. The website for CDC information is <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

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>

On August 20, 2009, the CDC released updated interim guidance for **new CDC H1N1 Guidance for Colleges, Universities, and Institutions of Higher Education**

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Department of Education (ED) Secretary Arne Duncan joined with Dr. Beth Bell, Deputy Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to announce new guidance for Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to plan for and respond to the upcoming flu season.

The guidance crafted by the scientists and doctors at the CDC is designed to help colleges and universities start planning and acting now for the impact that seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza could have this fall and winter on their students and faculty members, as well as other university employees. For the complete H1N1 guidance for higher education institutions and the special H1N1 Higher Education, please visit <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredguidance.html>.

The Toolkit is available at <http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredtoolkit.html>.

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

Summit County Health District: [www.schd.org](http://www.schd.org); Akron Health Department: [www.ci.akron.oh.us](http://www.ci.akron.oh.us);

Barberton Health District: [www.barbertonhealth.org](http://www.barbertonhealth.org)



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