



## General Public Bulletin #5

### **Contacts: Public Health Public Information Officers**

Chris Partis, Akron Health – 330-375-2453, [partiCh@ci.akron.oh.us](mailto:partiCh@ci.akron.oh.us)

Jessie Wingert, Barborton Health – 330-861-7175, [jwingert@barbertonhealth.org](mailto:jwingert@barbertonhealth.org)

Donna Skoda, Summit County – 330-926-5654, [dskoda@schd.org](mailto:dskoda@schd.org)

### **2009 Pandemic A H1N1 Influenza Summary – August 28, 2009**

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. Summit County has had 14 confirmed 2009 pandemic A(H1N1) influenza cases. Individual cases of H1N1 influenza are not reportable to the local health department, however, influenza associated hospitalizations (from any strain) are reportable.

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 21, 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 7,983 and the number of reported deaths is 522. The website for CDC information is <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.

The H1N1 vaccine is currently undergoing testing in selected clinical sites across the country. There is no H1N1 vaccine available for the public in the United States. The three Summit County Health Departments are working closely with the Ohio Department of Health on planning for the distribution of vaccine. We have been told that vaccine may be available in mid-October. Public media channels will be notified once the vaccine is available.

The initial H1N1 vaccine will not be given to everyone. Local health departments will follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for the target groups to receive the vaccine. As of August 25, the groups to receive the vaccine include:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children 5-18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions

This list may be expanded as more vaccine becomes available.

We do recommend that everyone get a seasonal influenza vaccine as early as possible. While the seasonal influenza vaccine will not protect against the H1N1 influenza virus, it will protect against the other influenza viruses that may be around this fall, winter, and spring.

It is important for people to practice good health habits, wash hands frequently, cover coughs, dispose of used tissues, and stay home when ill.

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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