

NOVEL INFLUENZA A - H1N1

The Offices of Emergency Preparedness and Infection Prevention and Control are continuing to monitor this global Influenza A – H1N1 situation. Please rest assured that they are working diligently to maintain a safe environment for staff and patients.

On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to [Phase 6](#), signaling that a global pandemic of novel influenza A (H1N1) was underway. This action was a reflection of the spread of the new H1N1 virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus.

The CDC reports that an H1N1 vaccine is expected for delivery in mid October of 2009. Initial reports are that individuals under the age of 50 will require two (2) doses, a minimum of 28 days apart. This is in addition to the normal flu shot that should be available in August, 2009. As of right now, both the H1N1 vaccine and the seasonal flu shots are voluntary. More details will be shared when available. Please check the CDC website for details (links below).

Over the next two months, the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services is conducting a five (5) day “NJ Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit 2009” of which SMMC Office of Emergency Preparedness is a participant. This will afford SMMC an excellent opportunity to ensure that our current Pandemic Plan is in synch with any federal or state policy or procedural changes.

SMMC is also reviewing its' Mass Prophylaxis Plan....just in case.

Regular communication exists between local, county and state Health Departments. Our involvement with the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) also lends support to our endeavor. The regional planning that exists between these entities enables SMMC to mitigate and respond to situations regionally, such as a potential Pandemic scenario.

Please remember to heed the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after use
- ▶ Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol based waterless hand sanitizers, especially after you sneeze
- ▶ Avoid close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms without wearing a mask
- ▶ If you get sick, STAY HOME from work or school and limit contact with others
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- ▶ If you are already at work and feel you may be ill, contact the Employee Health Office

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST:

- ▶ H1N1 Flu and You (*English*) 6/30/09: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ga.htm>
- ▶ Swine Influenza and You (*Spanish*) 4/27/09: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/espanol/influenza_porcina_usted.htm
- ▶ Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use to Reduce Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Transmission 5/27/09: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.htm>
- ▶ H1N1 Flu Clinical and Public Health Guidance 7/14/09: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>
- ▶ Antiviral Drugs and H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) 4/29/09: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/antiviral.htm>

OTHER IMPORTANT REFERENCE LINKS:

CDC:

- ▶ Main H1N1 (Swine Flu) Web Link: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- ▶ Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>
- ▶ Interim Guidance on Antiviral Recommendations for Patients with Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection and their Close Contacts: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>
- ▶ CDC Resources for Pandemic Flu: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/>
- ▶ Key Facts About Swine Influenza: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/key_facts.htm
- ▶ Weekly Report: Influenza Summary Update: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>
- ▶ Deaf and Hard of Hearing – H1N1 Education Videos: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/deaf.htm>

DHHS:

- ▶ Pandemic Flu: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/index.html>
- ▶ Federal and world response stages: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/federal/fedresponsestages.html>
- ▶ Use of Pneumococcal Vaccine for Pan Flu Preparedness: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/pneumococcal.html>
- ▶ State-by-State Pandemic Planning and status: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/states/index.html#stateplans>

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

- ▶ Main Site: <http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?lang=en>
- ▶ Influenza A – H1N1 Flu Page: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:

- ▶ Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/>
- ▶ Current WHO phase of pandemic alert: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html