

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD

For Immediate Release
Nov. 4 2009

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H1N1 Weekly Media Update: Nov. 4, 2009

NOTE: The H1N1 weekly media update will be sent out on Thursday, Nov. 12 next week. State offices will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Influenza-Like Illness

Visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness dropped for the second week in a row to approximately nine percent from approximately 11 percent last week. However, visits to healthcare providers are higher than would be expected for this time of year. The

Department tracks influenza-like illness, which is defined as fever and either cough and/or sore throat, at 26 clinics throughout the state. Influenza-like illness is the best indicator of flu activity in the state.

Disease Investigation

Novel H1N1 influenza is still the predominant strain of flu in New Mexico at this time.

All positive flu tests are presumed to be novel H1N1 influenza. The Department of Health is tracking hospitalizations and deaths to determine if there is a change in the severity of the disease. The severity of illness due to novel H1N1 influenza has not changed nationally or in New Mexico from the spring.

Deaths

The Department of Health is reporting five H1N1-related deaths in the last week in New

Mexico. The latest deaths are: a 27-year-old female from Doña Ana County without chronic medical conditions, a 53-year-old male from McKinley County without chronic medical conditions, a 4-year-old male from San Juan County without chronic medical conditions, a 53-year-old male from Bernalillo County with chronic medical conditions, and a 51-year-old male from Valencia County with chronic medical conditions.

The 49 year-old male whose death was reported last week has been determined to be a resident of another state and is no longer included in the New Mexico deaths.

There have been 26 deaths related to H1N1 influenza in the state. Information about the other deaths is listed on the Department's H1N1 website at: www.nmhealth.org/H1N1.

Vaccine Information

The Department of Health has ordered 186,760 doses of nasal and injectable H1N1 vaccine. Vaccine is arriving in small amounts and is being distributed to providers and public health offices statewide.

The Department of Health is encouraging people in the following current H1N1 vaccination priority groups to get vaccinated as soon as possible: pregnant women, household members/caretakers of infants less than 6 months old, children 6 to 59 months of age, children 5 to 18 years with certain chronic health conditions that increase their risk of complications from flu, and healthcare workers and emergency medical service personnel with direct patient care.

The Department of Health is encouraging people in the current priority groups to call their primary healthcare providers first to ask if they are providing the novel H1N1 vaccine. People in the priority groups without insurance or a healthcare provider, or whose provider will not offer the H1N1 vaccine, can get the vaccine from a local public health office. Call your local public health office first to check the availability of H1N1 vaccine. Public health offices are listed in the phonebook's blue pages under state government or online at www.nmhealth.org.

Vaccine Ordered by County:

The following is a total amount of H1N1 vaccine that has been ordered for each county as of Nov. 4: Bernalillo (60,400), Catron (170), Chaves (9,580), Cibola (2,770), Colfax (1,230), Curry (4,160), DeBaca (100), Doña Ana (19,610), Eddy, (4,490), Grant (2,670), Guadalupe (300), Harding (20), Hidalgo (220), Lea (5,400), Lincoln (1,550), Los Alamos (1,440), Luna (2,770), McKinley (9,250), Mora (330), Otero (5,090), Quay (930), Rio Arriba (3,575), Roosevelt (1,490), San Juan (12,040), San Miguel (3,090), Sandoval (8,540), Santa Fe (13,085), Sierra (890), Socorro (2,250), Taos (2,170), Torrance (1,620), Union (360), Valencia (5,220).

Hospitalizations by County

There have been 731 hospitalizations related to novel H1N1 influenza. The hospitalizations by county are as follows: Bernalillo County (175), Chaves County (14), Cibola County (13), Colfax (18), Curry (36), Doña Ana County (74), Eddy County (23), Grant County (5), Guadalupe County (1), Lea County (23), Lincoln County (6), Los Alamos County (1), Luna County (3), McKinley County (63), Mora County (1), Otero County (27), Quay (4), Rio Arriba County (13), Roosevelt County (10), San Juan County (45), San Miguel (4), Sandoval County (28), Santa Fe County (34), Sierra County (8), Socorro County (13), Taos County (18), Torrance County (2), Union (1), Valencia County (24) and 44 cases where residence has not yet been determined.

Resources

New Mexico H1N1 Information:
1-866-850-5893 or www.nmhealth.org/H1N1.

Spanish Information:
1-800-784-0394

Statewide Flu Clinics:
1-866-681-5872 or www.nmivc.org/cliniclist.php

National H1N1 Information:
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

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