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H1N1 (Swine) FLU UPDATE **Friday, October 9, 2009**

Flu Surveillance

The Albany County Department of Health (ACDOH) has started to see increased levels of influenza like illness (ILI) reported by both providers and Emergency Departments in Albany County. This week, we have received sporadic reports of lab confirmed influenza A and influenza 2009 H1N1 cases among Albany County residents. However, to date, there have been no clusters or outbreaks of ILI reported in our county. ACDOH is continuing to monitor influenza activity on a daily basis.

Nationally, the H1N1 influenza virus continues to be the dominant flu virus circulating at this time. Twenty-seven states are reporting widespread influenza activity. In New York State, influenza activity was considered to be at the regional level for the week ending September 26, 2009. The regional level of flu activity is considered to be one step below the widespread level. In Albany County, the University at Albany continues to report seeing a few students (out of a total student population of 18,000 students) per day with influenza like illness. The University at Albany is submitting two specimens per week from symptomatic students to Wadsworth Lab for influenza 2009 H1N1 testing as part of a sentinel surveillance program. At this time, two University at Albany students have tested positive for H1N1 influenza.

Flu Vaccination Information

- Albany County Health Department received a very small amount (500 doses) of H1N1 Live Attenuated Intranasal Vaccine on Tuesday Oct 6, 2009. This vaccine was offered to emergency medical personnel. Most hospitals and federally qualified health centers across the State also received a small amount of vaccine this week. Pre-registered community health care providers have not yet received vaccine but will likely begin receiving some vaccine soon. Providers should plan for receipt of portions of their order within a week or so. Vaccine will come out in increments and will be shipped weekly or more over the next few months.
- Individuals in the priority groups (<http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/vaccination/index.html#priority>) are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as the H1N1 vaccine becomes available. We will provide details on where to go to receive the vaccine, as more information becomes available.
- Health care providers can still pre-register their practices to receive H1N1 vaccine to be administered to their patients and staff when vaccine supplies increase. To do so,

please visit the following website: <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub>. For those providers who have already pre-registered, you can expect to receive notification from the New York State Department of Health shortly of the need to sign a Provider Agreement and officially order vaccine (to verify that what was pre-ordered is still accurate). You will not be able to receive vaccine until and unless the provider agreement has been signed.

- There continues to be a delay in receipt of *seasonal* flu vaccine for some providers. This is thought to be due to a low-yielding B strain (less amounts of a portion of the vaccine needed to make the vaccine), expedited production of H1N1 vaccine, and providers double booking with manufacturers. According to the State Health Department, most doses of seasonal flu vaccine are expected to be out by the end of November. Please be patient. **There is still plenty of time to receive the seasonal flu vaccine.** You may contact your health care provider or visit www.albanycounty.com/health for more information about *seasonal* flu clinics.

If you would like to subscribe to or be removed from this list please e-mail BeReady@AlbanyCounty.com and insert “Remove from Weekly Update” in subject line.

More resources for more information about seasonal flu and H1N1 flu:

The Albany County Department of Health
www.albanycounty.com/health

Call Albany County’s 24-hour automated flu hotline at (518) 447-4505 or call our live Flu information line at 447-4688 between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday-Friday

The New York State Department of Health H1N1 flu hotline at 1-800-808-1987
www.flu.gov