

Ulster County H1N1 Update - Released: 19 –March 10

**Ulster County Department of Health
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 3/19/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

***Ulster County Influenza Epidemiology Summary:** Ulster County Hospital Emergency Departments reported that the number of patients seen with influenza like illness has decreased, as compared to the weeks ending 2/20/10 and 2/27/10. (See Figure 1) School absenteeism rates have also decreased in reporting weeks 9 and 10 as compared to the relevant data available for the previous three weeks.

*The most recent Ulster County H1N1 data is available for the week ending March 13, 2010.

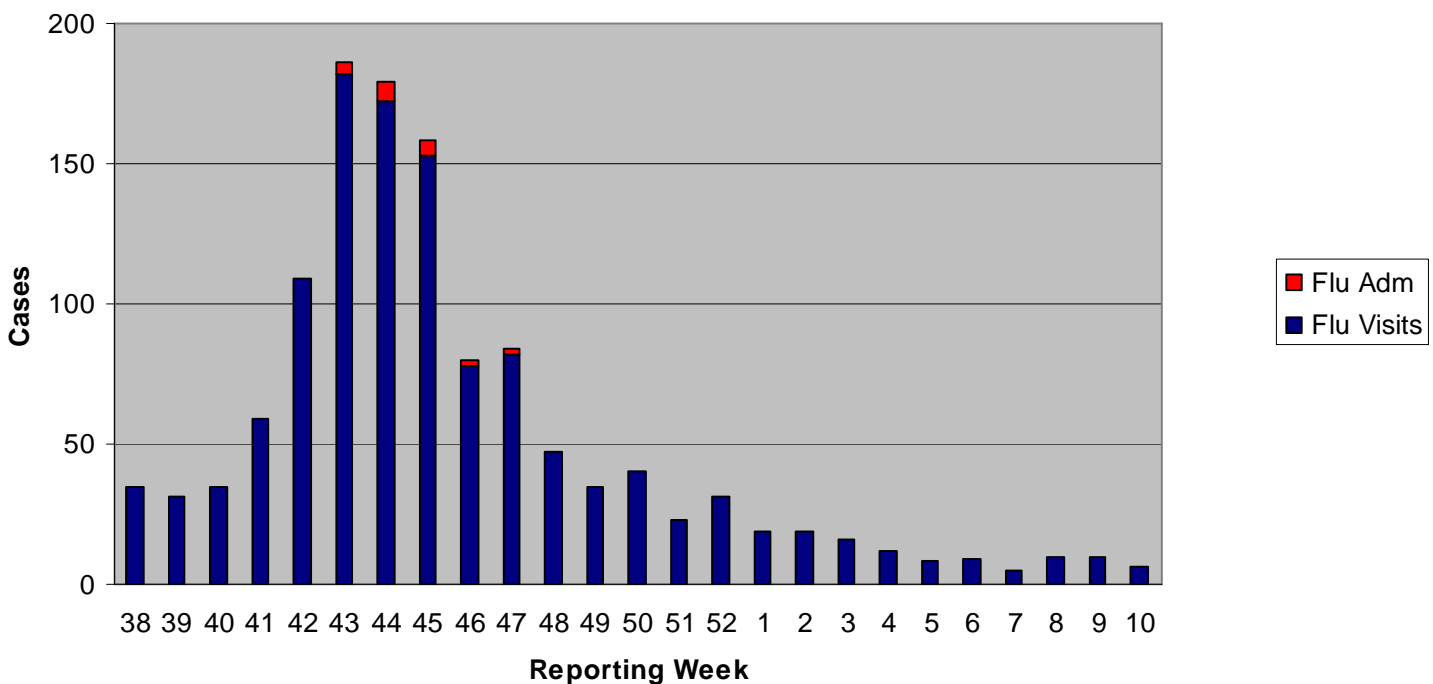


Figure 1: H1N1 Flu in Ulster County EDs: Sept. 26, 2009 (Reporting Wk 38) – March 13, 2010 (Reporting Wk 10)

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

Herd Immunity: Flu Vaccination of Children Helps Protect Wider Community:

On March 9, 2010, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that a seasonal influenza clinical trial was conducted in Canadian Hutterite religious colonies to assess whether or not immunized children could act as barrier in stopping the spread of influenza in unvaccinated communities. Results from this study show that influenza vaccination was 61% effective at preventing the indirect spread of the illness in a largely unvaccinated community, *IF* the unvaccinated people lived in an area where ~80% of the children had been administered the flu vaccine. These findings underscore the important role herd immunity plays in limiting the spread of disease, which the researchers refer to in their write-up of this clinical trial as offering "... experimental proof to support selective immunization of school aged children...to interrupt influenza transmission. Particularly, if there are constraints in quantity and delivery of vaccine, it may be advantageous to selectively immunize children in order to reduce community transmission of influenza." (For a detailed illustration showing how vaccination can lead to herd immunity, please refer to Figure 2.)

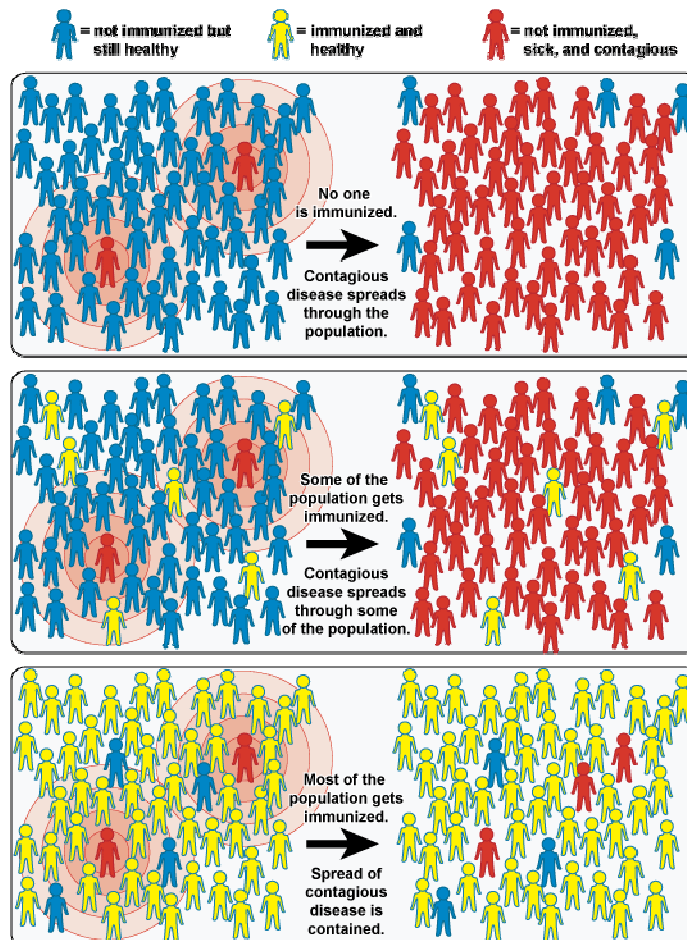


Figure 2: Herd Immunity, Source: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

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H1N1 Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH) plans to offer free H1N1 vaccinations every Friday during the month of **March**, by appointment only. Vaccination clinics will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

**Ulster County Health Department
759 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401**

**Trudy Resnick Farber Building
50 Center Street
Ellenville, NY 12428**

Clinic dates: March 5th; March 12th; March 19th; & March 26th 2010

To schedule an appointment for one of our H1N1 vaccination clinics, please call 845-340-3090.

Clinics are open to anyone six months and older who want the vaccine. As a reminder, children through 9 years of age should get **two doses** of vaccine, about a month apart. Older children and adults need only one dose.

For weather-related clinic cancellations, please listen to your local radio stations. You can also find out about clinic cancellations by calling the Ulster County Health Department Flu Hotline at 845-340-3093.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Department of Health (UCDOH) is offering seasonal influenza vaccinations to all children and adults six months of age and older at UCDOH's regularly scheduled vaccination clinics. Appointments are necessary. Please call the District Office nearest you to schedule an appointment.

Kingston: 340-3070
Ellenville: 647-2343
New Paltz: 883-6155
Saugerties: 246-2621

Vaccinations are free for children 18 years of age and younger. For all adults, 19 years of age and older, there will be a \$20.00 charge at the clinic. ***Please note: For those that are eligible, the \$20.00 charge is billable to Medicaid and Medicare Part B.*** Senior citizens who have Medicare Part B benefits will be able to obtain their vaccinations through Medicare. The recipient must be entitled to Part B coverage on the date of service, Medicare Part B must be the primary insurance coverage, and the Medicare Card must be presented on the date of service.

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Additional Ways to Find Vaccine: If your provider has not ordered H1N1 vaccine, and does not plan to order H1N1 vaccine, call the Ulster County Department of Health Flu Hotline at 845-340-3093 or log onto www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health to get updated information about when vaccination clinics for the general public will be held. You can also check <http://www.flucliniclocator.org> to see if there are any flu vaccine clinics scheduled near you.