

Ulster County Weekly H1N1 Update - Released: 15 –Jan. 10

**Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 1/15/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

NEW YORK STATE (NYS) H1N1 EPIDEMIOLOGY SUMMARY: Listed below is a summary of NYS H1N1 key findings for the week ending January 9, 2010.

- The overall level of flu activity in NYS is moderate and appears to be stable when compared to last week;
- The number of people hospitalized in NYS with flu is also moderate and appears to be stable when compared to last week; and
- Sentinel influenza physicians continue to report that flu activity is below the regional baseline. (See Figure 1)

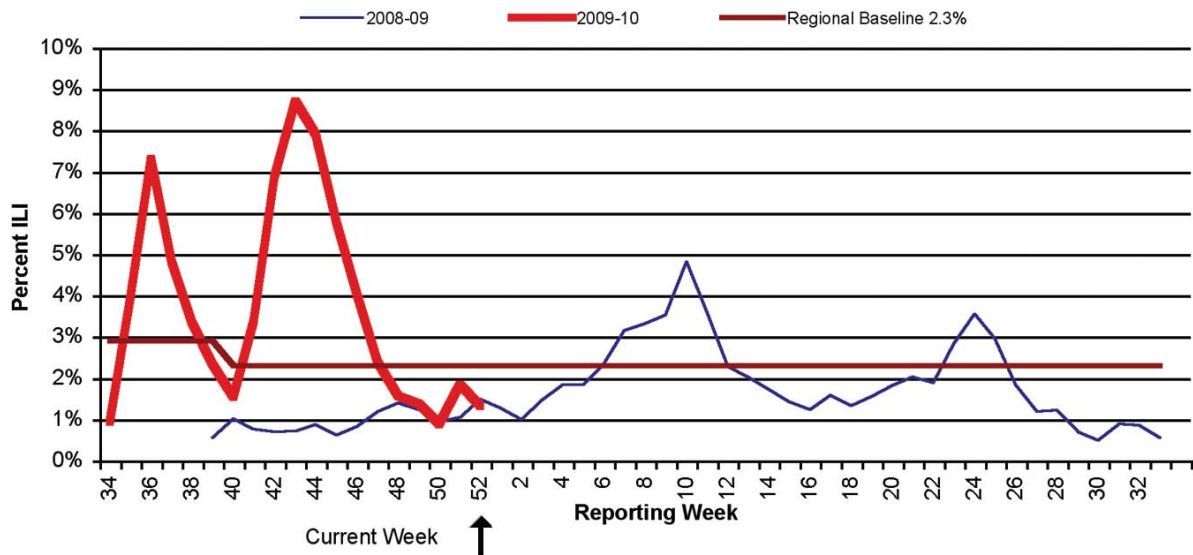


Figure 1: Percent of Visits to Sentinel Providers in NYS (Outside of NYC) for Flu-like Illness (season to date, by week)

***ULSTER COUNTY EPIDEMIOLOGY SUMMARY:** Ulster County Hospital Emergency Departments reported decreases in the number of patients seen with influenza like illness last week. (See Figure 2) School absenteeism rates have remained within the expected range for cold and flu season, as compared to the week ending December 19, 2009. Please note: December 19, 2009 is the most recent week that current school absentee data can be compared to, due to holiday break schedules.

*The most recent Ulster County H1N1 data is available for the week ending January 8, 2010.

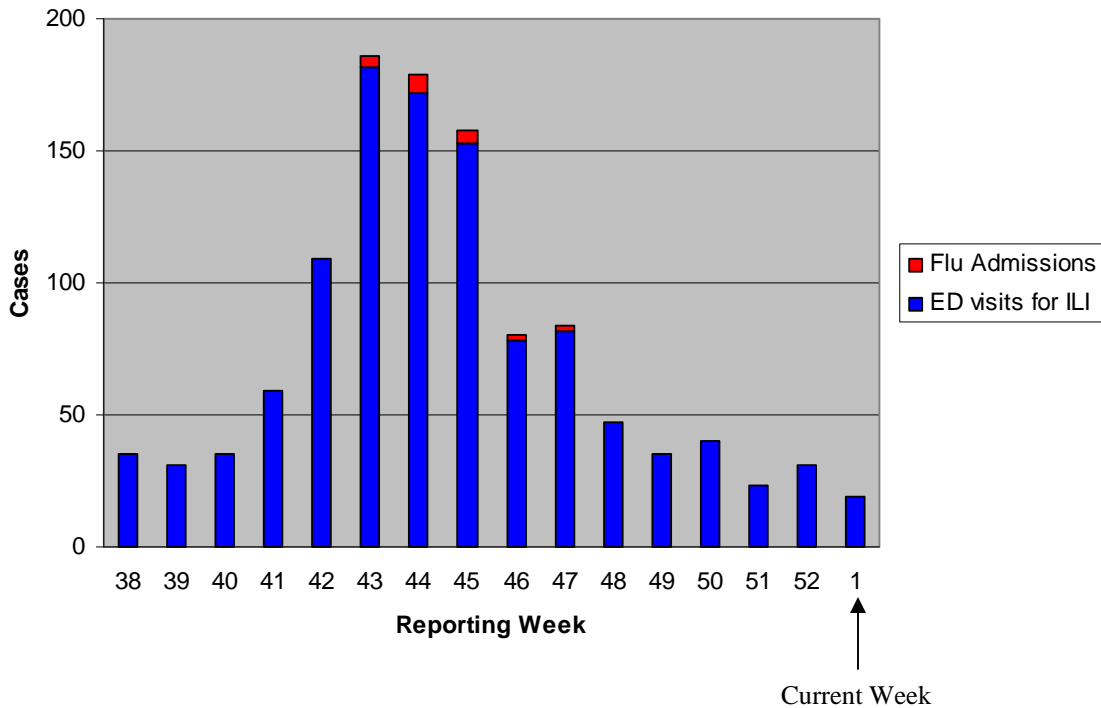


Figure 2: H1N1 Flu in Ulster County EDs: Sept. 26, 2009 (Reporting Wk 38) – Jan. 8, 2010 (Reporting Wk 1)

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO VACCINATE: Historically, influenza pandemics have been characterized by “waves” of activity. These waves have commonly been documented as occurring for approximately one year after the novel influenza virus first emerged, with each wave lasting between six to twelve weeks. In present day, the United States experienced the first wave of the novel 2009 H1N1 influenza virus last spring, and now the second wave of activity appears to be decreasing. However, it is important to

Ulster County Weekly Update

note that H1N1 flu activity and hospitalizations continue to be identified in New York State, and we need to be prepared for a possible third wave of H1N1 influenza. Furthermore, the traditional flu season has just begun and it will likely continue through the spring.

These facts truly underscore the importance of getting vaccinated. We do not want to repeat the same mistakes made in the 1957 flu pandemic when, in midwinter, public health officials no longer encouraged flu shots, only to be hit with another substantial wave of sickness and death in March of that year. Currently, there is an ample supply of H1N1 vaccine available, which is being offered in a multitude of settings for anyone who would like to receive it. Vaccination really will increase the chance that we will be able to prevent a third wave of H1N1 influenza.

H1N1 VACCINATION AND THE PEDIATRIC POPULATION: Children through 9 years of age (under the age of 10) should receive two doses of the H1N1 influenza, spaced approximately one month apart. Two doses are necessary in order for children under the age of 10 to be protected against the influenza virus. Infants under six months old are too young to receive the flu vaccine. Therefore, if you are a parent or caregiver of an infant less than six months old, it is important to get vaccinated to protect you and your baby.

H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE: The Ulster County Health Department plans to offer free H1N1 vaccinations at five locations throughout the county during January and February. No appointments are necessary. Clinics are open to all New Yorkers six months and older who want the vaccine. The clinic schedule is as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Saturday, January 23, 2010	Trudy Resnick Farber Building 50 Center Street, Ellenville, NY 12428	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30, 2010	St. John's Episcopal Church 207 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 3, 2010	VFW Post 8645 101 Route 208, New Paltz, NY 12561	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 6, 2010	Saugerties Senior Center 207 Market Street, Saugerties, NY 12477	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10, 2010	Town of Olive American Legion Hall 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY 12481	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Ulster County Weekly Update

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

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE: The Ulster County Health Department (UCHD) is offering seasonal influenza vaccinations to adults 18 years and older at the Health Department's regularly scheduled immunization 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

For those not eligible for Medicare Part B coverage, there will be a \$20.00 charge for influenza vaccination, payable at the clinic. 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.

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 Health Department 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.