

**Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 1/29/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

New York State H1N1 Epidemiology Summary: Listed below is a summary of NYS H1N1 key findings for the week ending January 23, 2010:

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

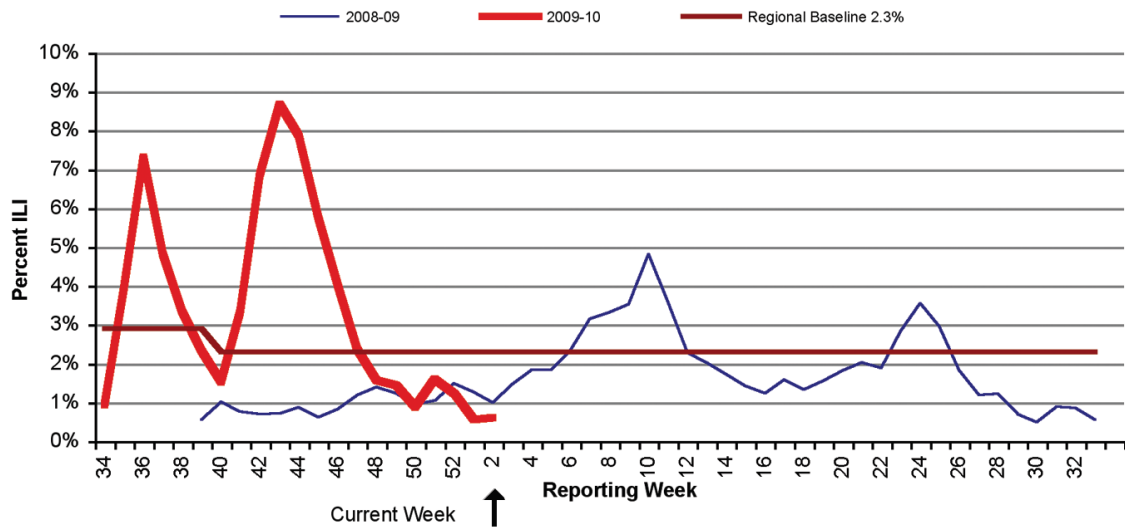


Figure 1: Percent of Visits to Sentinel Providers in NYS (Outside of NYC) for Flu-like Illness (season to date, by week)

*Ulster County H1N1 Epidemiology Summary: Ulster County Hospital Emergency Departments reported that the number of patients seen with influenza like illness last week decreased slightly, as compared to the week ending 1/16/10. (See Figure 2) School absenteeism rates have remained stable, as compared to the week ending 1/16/10. It should be noted that these absenteeism rates are still within the expected range for cold and flu season.

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*The most recent Ulster County H1N1 data is available for the week ending January 23, 2010.

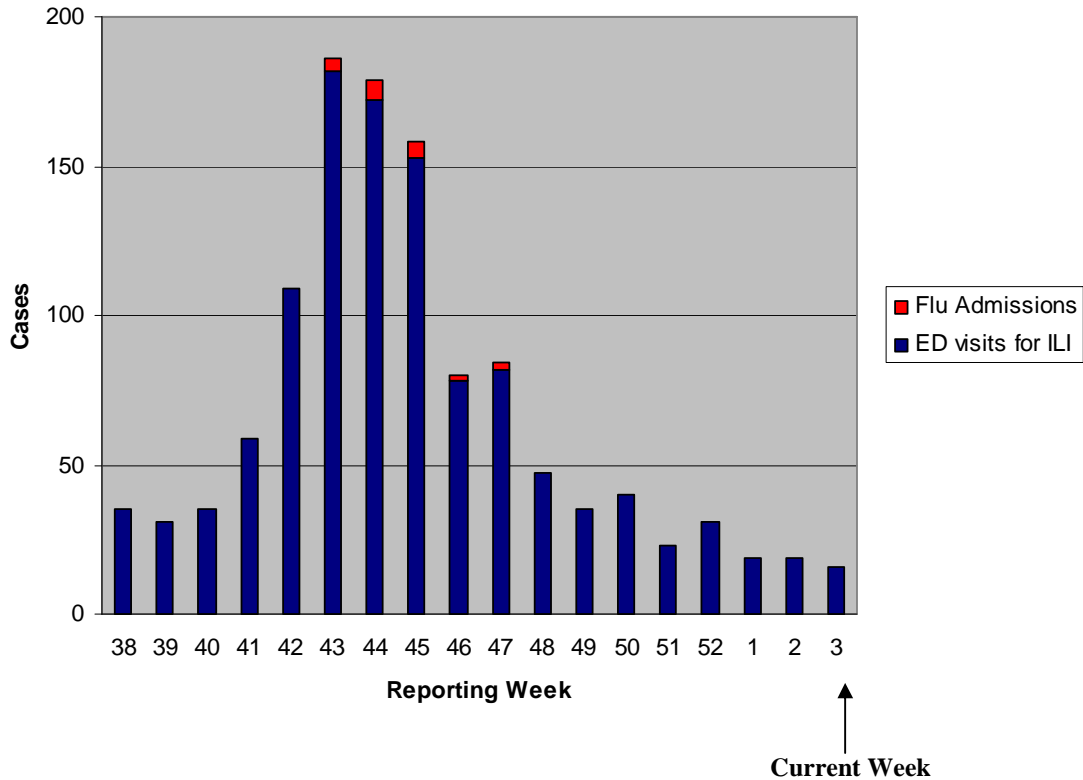


Figure 2: H1N1 Flu in Ulster County EDs: Sept. 26, 2009 (Reporting Wk 38) – Jan. 23, 2010 (Reporting Wk 3)

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

“I’m a Flu Fighter”—HHS Uses Facebook to Spread the Word about H1N1

Vaccination: On January 14, 2010, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, announced the launch of a new Facebook application called “I’m a Flu Fighter.” Through the Flu Fighter application*, users can elect to tell their friends that they received the flu vaccination and encourage others to do so as well.

“Social media has been an important tool to communicate with young people and all Americans about the importance of getting the H1N1 flu vaccine throughout our vaccination program. This new Facebook application will help friends encourage each other to get the H1N1 flu vaccine,” said Secretary Sebelius. The Flu Fighter Facebook application can be accessed by visiting the following website:

<http://www.facebook.com/apps/application.php?id=247962751508>

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*Flu Fighter was created by Healthy Social, a non-profit project at Children's Hospital Boston, in collaboration with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Flu Fighter Screen Shots:

Choose My Character | **Set my status** | Challenge my friends! | About The Flu Vaccine

I want to tell others about my vaccination status:

I got the Vaccine .


I plan to Vaccine .

I'm not sure if I'll get the flu vaccine. I'd like more information.

How was it?

 Could be better

 Fine

 Good

 Great!



f Publish this story to your Facebook Wall and your friends' home pages? ✕

What's on your mind?

 **I'm a Flu Fighter!**
I got the Flu Vaccine! It was great!
I'm a flu fighter! I just got the Flu Vaccine to protect myself and my loved ones. Protect yourself and the people you love by getting the flu vaccine too.

♥ Not Published Yet via I'm a Flu Fighter!

Publish **Skip**

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H1N1 Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Health Department (UCHD) 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 Ellenville H1N1 clinic was held on Saturday, January 23, 2010. The remaining H1N1 clinics available through UCHD are as follows:**

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
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.

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 all children and adults six months of age and older at the Health Department'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.

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.