

**Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 2/05/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

*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 1/23/10. (See Figure 1) School absenteeism rates have also decreased slightly, as compared to the week ending 1/23/10. It should be noted that these absenteeism rates are still within the expected range for cold and flu season.

*The most recent Ulster County H1N1 data is available for the week ending January 30, 2010.

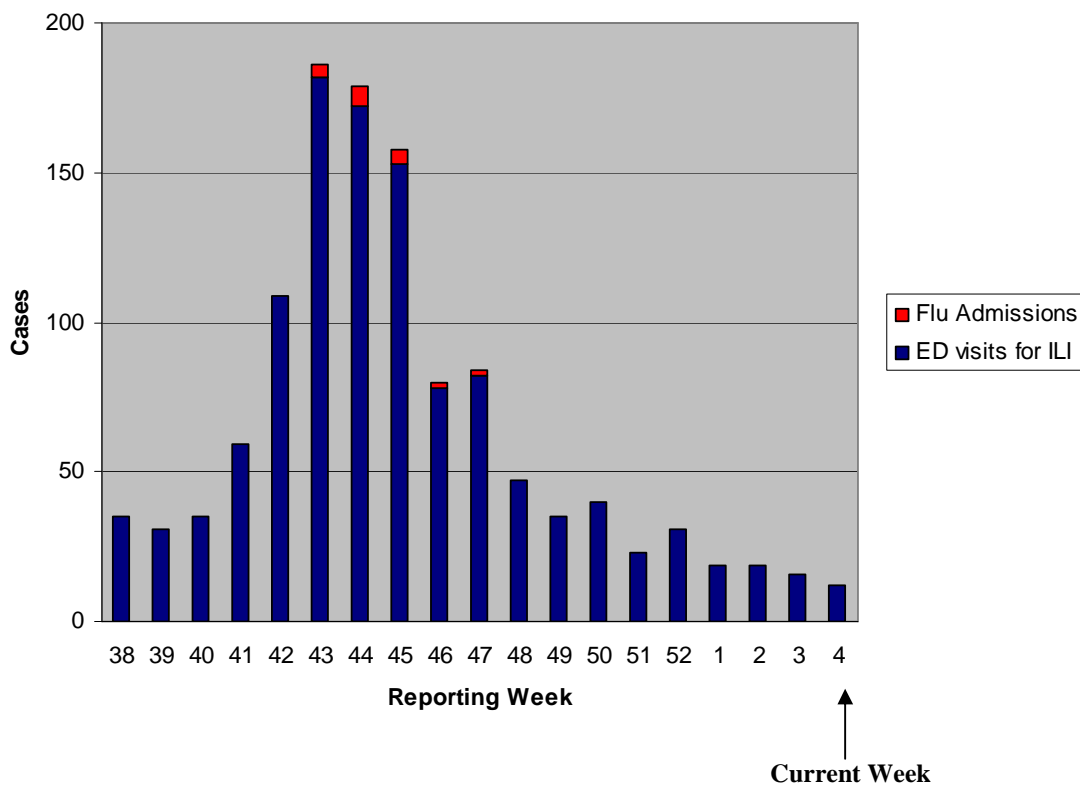


Figure 1: H1N1 Flu in Ulster County EDs: Sept. 26, 2009 (Reporting Wk 38) – Jan. 30, 2010 (Reporting Wk 4)

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

New Guidance from CDC on Communicating Pediatric-related Information on Pandemic Influenza: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a guidance document on communicating pediatric-related information on pandemic influenza, which was developed based upon the input of pediatric stakeholders. Below is a bulleted summary of the guidance:

- **Title:**
Guidance from Pediatric Stakeholders: A Coordinated Approach to Communicating Pediatric-related Information on Pandemic Influenza at the Community Level.
- **Target Audience:**
Community planners who would coordinate communication with the medical community and general public during a pandemic influenza outbreak.
- **Purpose:**
The overall goal of this document is provide community planners with talking points for internal planning on how to develop a coordinated approach to pediatric-related pandemic influenza communication within communities.
- **Steps to Prevent Undesired Actions Taken During the Early Part of the 2009 Influenza Pandemic:**
 - *Step 1-- Identify Trusted Sources of Information:*
Trusted sources of information include: The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, other federal agencies, state and local health departments, professional organizations, other state or local agencies, and hospitals.
 - *Step 2-- Identify “The Voice” of the Community*
In order to deliver a coordinated message, it should come from a unified voice within the community. An example of a community’s voice during an influenza pandemic are local health departments, which would be responsible for collecting information from all the trusted sources and disseminating it out to other “voices” in the community.
 - *Step 3-- Identify Those Who Need the Information*
Pediatric-related information should be disseminated among two groups of target audiences, which are the medical community and the general public. Examples of medical community groups include primary care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, etc. General public group examples cited within the

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guidance document are media, schools, community based organizations, advocacy groups, and government officials.

→ *Step 4-- Identify the Information Needed*

Pediatric stakeholders listed the following topics as areas where information needs to be provided/disseminated to the above referenced target audiences: information access, roles and responsibilities, general awareness, communication, infection control/prevention, management/treatment of ill/infected children, testing, surge, vaccine, and antivirals. These topics areas are discussed in detail in the full text version of the guidance document, which can be found by referring to link below.*

→ *Step 5-- Condense the Information You Want to Communicate*

Before information can be disseminated to the public and medical community, it needs to be condensed into a more manageable size. Collapsed topics areas that were recommended for the medical community and the general public are summarized in the table below:

Suggested Information Topics	
Medical Community	General Public
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who to Call For Information • Where to Go for Resources • Testing Protocols • Medical Fact Sheet on 2009 H1N1 influenza • Medical Fact Sheet on the 2009 H1N1 influenza Vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Things Parents Want to Know about 2009 H1N1 influenza • 10 Things Parents Should Ask Their Doctor • Fact Sheet on 2009 H1N1 influenza • Fact Sheet on the 2009 H1N1 influenza Vaccine
<p>* CDC has provided information, guidance, and messages for specific audiences on its H1N1 web site.</p>	

→ *Step 6-- Identify the Methods of Communication*

Suggested methods of communication that were cited by pediatric stakeholders within the medical community include: hotlines, email, websites, listservs, newsletters, and journalists. In terms of the general public, pediatric stakeholders cited controlled media, schools, trusted agents, mail, email, and “backpack mail” as suggested options for communication.

*For the full text version of this guidance document, please click on the following link:
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/pediatrics_tool.htm

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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 remaining H1N1 clinics available through UCHD are as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
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.