



**DEC. 10, 2009**

## **HEALTH UPDATE**

### **H1N1 Influenza Update**

#### **Updated Pediatric Care and Antiviral Use Guidance Available From CDC**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its guidance for pediatric care and antiviral use. The updated guidance can be found at:

[www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations\\_pediatric\\_supplement.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations_pediatric_supplement.htm).

#### **Surveillance Update**

The North Dakota Department of Health is asking health-care providers to remain diligent in their efforts to assist the department with influenza surveillance this year. Surveillance data indicates the state has reached a peak with H1N1 cases. Reports of laboratory-identified influenza cases and outpatient visits with influenza-like illness reported from our sentinel ILINet provider network have been decreasing during the past weeks. School absenteeism due to illness also has decreased. It is unknown if this trend will continue or if we can expect another increase in H1N1 activity or an increase in seasonal influenza activity.

Due to these uncertainties, the Department of Health is encouraging providers to continue participating in influenza surveillance through the following activities.

- Reporting all cases in which there is laboratory evidence of influenza (rapid, IFA, DFA, PCR, culture or other).
- Submitting specimens to the North Dakota Department of Health from hospitalized patients with respiratory illness in which likely causes of illness other than influenza have been ruled out.
- Reporting deaths due to influenza or influenza-like illness in children and pregnant women.
- Submitting specimens for testing clusters or increases of influenza-like illnesses.
- Submitting specimens that are positive for influenza B to allow further characterization of those viruses.

Influenza surveillance will continue to be important this season in order to understand the types of viruses that are circulating, which has important implications for treatment of influenza.

If you have questions or concerns or to report an influenza case, please feel free to contact the Division of Disease Control at 1.800.472.2180. Reporting also can be done online by going to [www.ndflu.com/Reporting/OnLineReporting.aspx](http://www.ndflu.com/Reporting/OnLineReporting.aspx).

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*