



**JUNE 1, 2009**

## **HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Update on Novel H1N1 in North Dakota**

As of June 1, 2009, there have been 18 confirmed or probable cases of novel H1N1 influenza reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. The following counties have reported cases.

- Burleigh
- Cass
- McLean
- Morton
- Renville
- Richland
- Ward

The median age of reported cases is 18.5 years and ages have ranged from 10 to 47 years. None of the cases have required hospitalization. Fever (17/18 cases), cough (18/18 cases) and sore throat (17/18 cases) continue to be the predominate symptoms being reported. Diarrhea and vomiting, although being reported by as many as 25 percent of the cases nationwide, were only reported by one case so far in North Dakota. Only two cases have reported travel prior to onset of illness. Probable novel H1N1 influenza virus is now the predominate influenza finding being reported by the public health laboratory. Out of the 18 cases, rapid influenza testing was performed at the local level on 10 of the cases. Eight of the 10 rapid tests were positive and two were negative.

As we continue to have more cases reported, we will be modifying our surveillance for those affected regions of the state to look only for more severe cases of infection and infections in health-care workers.

Except in the geographic areas listed below, providers should continue to test individuals that have influenza like illness (fever of 100° F or higher with cough and/or sore throat) including hospitalized individuals and health-care workers as described below.

Providers serving the Minot areas should use the following criteria for testing:

1. People presenting with a fever ( $\geq 100.0^{\circ}$ ) and a cough with or without a sore throat and reside outside of the Minot area (i.e. rural Ward County and neighboring counties)

-- more --

2. Hospitalized patients with fever and respiratory illness in the absence of a known cause other than influenza, regardless of residency or travel history.
3. Health-care workers with fever and respiratory illness.

More information including case counts and geographic locations can be found by clicking on the swine flu link at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov) .

*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.*