



# INYO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF

A Division of Health & Human Services  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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## Influenza Update - ?Peaking

### Current situational report:

#### **NATIONAL INFLUENZA ACTIVITY**

During the latest reporting week (November 1-7, 2009), influenza activity decreased slightly in the U.S. All influenza A viruses being reported to CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses, so there seems to be no seasonal influenza circulating at this time. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was above the epidemic threshold for the sixth consecutive week. Thirty-five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 6.7% which is above the national baseline of 2.3%. The current map of flu activity in the United States can be found on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

Since the outbreak began, it is estimated that there have been 22 million persons infected in the US, with approx. 98,000 hospitalizations, and 3,900 deaths due to the H1N1 influenza and complications. More children have now died during this outbreak than in any other recorded flu season in recent history.

#### **CALIFORNIA INFLUENZA ACTIVITY**

Overall influenza activity in California remains "widespread". Laboratory detections and reports of ILI from sentinel providers declined. In addition to the H1N1, as expected, other seasonal viruses such as those causing croup and RSV have begun to surface. Since the H1N1 epidemic began, in California there have been more than 5,300 hospitalizations, and at least 297 deaths, with 31 deaths in the week ending Nov 7<sup>th</sup> alone (up from the previous averages of 12-15). Twenty-five local health departments and 5 Operational Areas have activated their EOC's (Emergency Operations Centers).

#### **LOCAL INFLUENZA ACTIVITY**

The Eastern Sierra continues to experience increased levels of respiratory illness, most of which is presumed to be due to H1N1 infections. Indicators such as ER visits, clinic visits, hospitalizations, school absenteeism, and antiviral prescriptions have shown activity, which is probably peaking during the month of November. There have been no deaths reported locally.

## VACCINE AVAILABILITY

The H1N1 vaccine story continues to be both disappointing and frustrating. Limited amounts of vaccine have arrived, and are efficiently being distributed to the highest risk populations potentially affected by the H1N1 virus. Pregnant females, household members and caregivers for infants under 6 months of age, special needs children, infants and children starting at 6 months of age and older, and healthcare workers with face-to-face contact with potentially contagious persons all have been the target of our initial outreach. As more vaccine arrives, we will target young persons up to the age of 24, and adults with chronic medical conditions up to the age of 64. Eventually, as more vaccine becomes available, anyone who wishes to receive vaccine will be able to.

For up-to-date information about vaccine available in Inyo County, please call the Health Department at 760-873-7868.

More information is available at:

Public Health – Inyo County:

<http://www.inyocounty.us/publichealth/index.php>

760-873-7868 (English and Spanish)

U.S. Government

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

California Department of Public Health:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>