
Influenza Surveillance Report – Week Ending February 19th
Genesee County, MI
February 26, 2010

Genesee County Influenza Surveillance

- **Surveillance:** Surveillance in Genesee County indicates influenza activity during the week ending February 19th remains similar to the previous weeks. Influenza activity is much lower than what is normally observed during this time of year. Emergency department visits from Genesee County residents due to constitutional complaints remained similar to the previous weeks while visits due to respiratory complaints decreased slightly. Though flu activity has declined since late October, there are still uncertainties surrounding the rest of this flu season. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to monitor the situation and stated this week that there is no change yet in its designation of the pandemic phase from a level 6 (highest) to a lower level.
- **Lab-confirmed cases:** No new cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza infection were reported this week. Michigan Department of Community Health is currently asking hospitals, laboratories, and physicians to continue to report cases in which there is laboratory confirmation of infection, including rapid influenza tests for influenza A and influenza B, to their local health department. This is very important for surveillance.
- **Hospitalizations/deaths:** There were no cases of severe and/or hospitalized patients or deaths associated with 2009 H1N1 influenza during the week ending February 19th.
- **Local Colleges and Universities:** No reports of influenza-like illness were received from college and university students and staff for the week ending February 19th.
- **Genesee County Schools and Childcare Centers:** During the week ending February 19th 1.8% of children in schools and childcare centers presented with influenza-like illness which a slight increase from the previous week. The level of influenza activity in schools and childcare centers in Genesee County remains much lower than what is normally seen at this time of year. Four (4) school districts experienced increases in reported influenza-like illness while four (4) experienced decreases. Influenza-like illnesses remained stable for the remaining school districts. Student absences remain at levels similar to those normally observed during this time of year. No school closings due to illness or absences were reported this week.

H1N1 Vaccine Update

- To promote awareness that it is not too late to get vaccinated against pandemic H1N1 flu, the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) has launched a billboard campaign throughout Genesee County with messages encouraging people to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated.
- 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is now available to the general public. The GCHD encourages anyone who wants to avoid getting 2009 H1N1 influenza to get vaccinated.
- Children 6 months through 9 years of age need two doses to be fully protected. Letters are being mailed to parents and guardians of children who require a 2nd dose.
- 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine is widely available throughout Genesee County. In addition to offering 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine during regular business hours at the Burton Branch location, the GCHD is offering special evening clinics by appointment only each Wednesday in March from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.
- For details on locations providing 2009 H1N1 vaccine visit <http://www.gchd.us/HotTopics/H1N1FluClinicLocations.asp>.
- Guidance from the WHO indicates that the next seasonal flu vaccine should contain the pandemic H1N1, H3N2, and influenza B strains.
- CDC Advisory Committee has recommended flu vaccination for all people ages 6 months and older during 2010-2011 flu season.

Antiviral Distribution

- A total of twelve (12) pharmacies throughout Genesee County have been identified to receive Tamiflu from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). For the most recent list of pharmacies call (810) 257-3833 or visit <http://www.gchd.us/HotTopics/H1N1Flu.asp>
- All doses from the SNS are free of charge to underinsured or uninsured patients. A prescription from a health care provider is required to receive antivirals.