



Nevada State Health Division

Public Health Preparedness

September 18, 2009

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide pertinent public health information to public health, healthcare providers and other community stakeholders, as well as to the general public. This report replaces the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) weekly influenza report and will be published on the first and third Friday of each month.

Nevada State Public Health Laboratory Counts

According to the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSHPL), as of 1:00pm PT, September 17, 2009, Nevada had 1,179 **confirmed** cases of H1N1 flu and 39 **probable** cases. All of the probable cases, with one exception, are due to samples with viral loads too low for subtyping. ****Does not include private laboratory testing****

Nevada State Public Health Laboratory Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection			
County	Confirmed	Probable	Deaths
Carson City	150	13	
Clark	165	3	11
Washoe	621	18	
Other 14 counties	243	5	
Total	1,179	39	11

The NSPHL has tested a total of 3,476 samples since April 26, 2009. Cumulative total results, detailed for the last 12 weeks, are noted below. ****Does not include private laboratory testing****

	Total Tested	H1N1	% H1N1	H1	H3	B	Total Other	% Other	Total Negative	% Negative
September 17, 2009	3,476	1,179	33.9%	20	73	78	171	4.9%	2,126	61.2%
September 3, 2009	3,034	917	30.2%	20	73	78	171	5.7%	1,946	64.1%
August 20, 2009	2,618	794	30.4%	20	73	78	171	6.5%	1,673	63.1%
August 13, 2009	2,459	713	29.0%	20	73	78	171	7.0%	1,575	64.0%
August 6, 2009	2,320	663	28.6%	20	73	78	171	7.4%	1,486	64.0%
July 23, 2009	1,876	468	24.9%	20	73	78	171	9.1%	1,237	66.0%
July 16, 2009	1,667	381	22.9%	20	73	78	171	10.3%	1,115	66.8%
July 9, 2009	1,575	320	20.3%	20	73	78	171	10.9%	1,084	68.8%
July 2, 2009	1,450	293	20.2%	20	73	78	171	11.8%	986	68.0%
June 25, 2009	1,344	240	17.9%	20	73	78	171	12.7%	933	69.4%
June 18, 2009	1,265	215	17.0%	20	73	78	171	13.5%	879	69.5%
June 04, 2009	1,051	136	12.9%	20	68	78	166	15.8%	749	71.3%

** update not available for July 30, 2009 , June 11, 2009

2009-2010 Influenza Season begins October 4, 2009

The 2009-2010 influenza season officially begins October 4, 2009. In the U.S., each year there are more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths related to seasonal influenza.

Seasonal influenza shots are now available and are an important step in protecting against the flu; however, it will not protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza.

The additional actions listed below will help protect you and others against seasonal and H1N1 influenza:

- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not into your hands. If you do use your hands, make sure to use a tissue and throw it in the trash immediately after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay at home if you are sick and limit contact with others so they do not get infected.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. Your fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Seasonal Influenza Activity

According to the CDC, for MMWR week 35 (August 30-September 5, 2009), influenza activity increased in the U.S. Week 35 is the first week that CDC is reporting data from a new system for monitoring the trend of influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths. This new system replaces the previous system that reported laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1-related hospitalizations and deaths. The counts were reset to zero on August 30, 2009. A total of 1,380 hospitalizations and 196 deaths associated with influenza virus infection, or based on syndromic surveillance for influenza and pneumonia were reported to the CDC for week 35.

There are 5 levels of influenza activity as defined by the CDC.

- **No Activity:** No laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza and no reported increase in the number of cases of ILI.
- **Sporadic:** Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.
- **Local:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in a single region of the state.
- **Regional:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions.
- **Widespread:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in the state.

For MMWR week 35:

- 11 states reported **widespread** activity
- 13 states reported **regional** activity
- 10 states reported **local** activity
- 14 states reported **sporadic** activity
- 2 states reported **no activity**

Nevada has 5 reporting regions. For MMWR week 35, we are at "regional" influenza activity.

Information on influenza activity and surveillance can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

FDA Approves Vaccines for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus

On September 15, 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it approved four vaccines against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. The vaccines are made by CSL Limited, MedImmune LLC, Novartis and Sanofi Pasteur Inc. Based on data from clinical trials involving adults, a single dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine offers protection 8-10 days after vaccination. Clinical trials involving pregnant women and children are still continuing.

On that same day, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the vaccine approval to Congress. The U.S. government has ordered 195 million doses and the vaccine is expected to arrive in mid-October.

The FDA press release can be found at: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm182399.htm>

HHS Secretary's testimony to the Energy and Commerce Committee at their *Preparing for the 2009 Pandemic Flu* hearing can be found at: http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1740:preparing-for-the-2009-pandemic-flu&catid=128:full-committee&Itemid=84

2009 H1N1 Influenza A Vaccine Safety

On September 14, 2009, the CDC published *General Questions and Answers on 2009 H1N1 Influenza A Activity*, answering questions on such issues as vaccine side effects, vaccine safety monitoring and vaccine contents.

The Q & A can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/vaccine_safety_qa.htm

H1N1 Preparedness Guide for Small Businesses

On September 14, 2009, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the publication of a H1N1 preparedness guide for small businesses. The *Planning for 2009 H1N1 Influenza: A Preparedness Guide for Small Businesses* was created by the Small Business Administration, DHS and the CDC.

The guide includes tips for small businesses on how to write a continuity of operations plan, steps for keeping employees healthy, 2009 H1N1 flu frequently asked questions and a list of online accessible resources.

The guide is published in PDF format and can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/business/guidance/smallbiz.htm>

West Nile Virus Activity

As of September 17, 2009, there have been 12 cases of West Nile virus (WNV) reported in Nevada. All cases are in Clark County. The number of human cases associated with WNV in Nevada is updated every Friday throughout the WNV season at:

http://health.nv.gov/WestNileVirus_Activity.htm

Information provided by the Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory:

Mosquito pools tested: 258-one Douglas County pool tested positive for WNV.

One swab tested negative.

West Nile Virus Prevention

These actions will help protect you and others against West Nile virus:

- Avoid mosquito bites
 - Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks
 - Use insect repellent containing DEET (look for N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) on exposed skin when outdoors
 - Use insect repellent according to directions
- Mosquito-proof your home
 - Install or repair window and door screens
 - Drain standing water so mosquitoes do not have a place to breed
 - Empty water from buckets, cans, pools covers, flower pots and other items
- For additional animal information:
 - Call the Nevada Department of Agriculture at 775-353-3718