



# Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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## Health Update – July 3, 2009 Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Activity in Philadelphia

In the last week, influenza activity has begun to decline in Philadelphia (figure). Similar declines have been reported throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (data not shown). Virtually all of the influenza A isolates sub-typed in the last month across the United States were novel H1N1 influenza A. In Philadelphia, school-age children continue to be the largest age-group affected.

Three deaths due to novel H1N1 have been confirmed in Philadelphia, and a fourth death is under investigation. Three of the four fatalities had major underlying illnesses. Autopsy results from two of these cases identified diffuse alveolar damage and pulmonary edema. A total of 216 influenza-related hospitalizations have been reported to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) since May 1, 2009; 9% of these cases required the intensive care unit. Twenty-

seven cases have been reported in pregnant women.

Healthcare facilities should continue to make efforts to recognize cases. Patients with suspected influenza in healthcare settings should be separated and asked to wear a surgical mask. Antiviral treatment should be offered to persons at high risk for complications or severe illness. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has recommended that healthcare workers use standard and droplet precautions when caring for persons with suspected or confirmed novel influenza A/H1N1. This pertains to all but a small number of circumstances where the potential for virus aerosolization is high. For additional information, please visit <https://hip.phila.gov/xv/> and <http://www.health.state.pa.us/flu>.

### PDPH Laboratory Surveillance of Influenza A and Emergency Department Surveillance of Influenza-Like Illness, 2009 Season

