



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Update

Increased Local Transmission of Influenza A (H1N1) October 22, 2009

Over the past 2 weeks, reports of lab-confirmed influenza A in Philadelphia have increased significantly (see figure). During the same period, a similar rise has been identified for emergency department visits for febrile/flu-like illnesses throughout the city. Thus far, laboratory subtyping of respiratory specimens indicates that only influenza A (H1N1) is circulating locally. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) continues to gather information regarding severe (i.e. hospitalized or fatal) cases of influenza A (H1N1). In the last week (Oct. 11 – Oct. 17), 26 newly hospitalized cases of influenza A H1N1 were reported and one death was confirmed in a 55 year-old male with chronic medical conditions. Since September 1st, a total of 49 hospitalized cases of influenza A have been identified. Younger age groups constitute the majority.

Despite continuing circulation of rhinoviruses and the seasonal emergence of respiratory syncytial virus, influenza-like illness is more likely to be due to influenza A at this time.

For more information regarding PDPH's guidelines, recommendations, and surveillance activities for influenza A (H1N1), please visit the PDPH Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov>).

Please note that hospitalized, pregnant, or fatal cases of influenza must be reported to the Health Department. A PDF version of the case report form can be found at <https://hip.phila.gov>. Influenza outbreaks can be reported by calling 215-685-6748; or after business hours, please contact the Division of Disease Control on-call personnel at 215-685-4514.

PDPH Laboratory Surveillance of Influenza A and Emergency Department Surveillance of Fever/Flu Chief Complaints, 2009

