



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

H1N1- WEEKLY EDITION



SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 - VOLUME 8

H1N1 INFLUENZA PARTNER CONFERENCE CALL FROM FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2009

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will provide, each week, key points that were shared with local health departments and community partners during the previous week's Friday H1N1 Influenza conference call.

We encourage you to participate in the weekly call or playback the recording to keep abreast of new information and updates in policy, guidance and resources.

State Health Director's Status Report

*presented by Richard Morrissey, Deputy Director
Division of Health, KDHE*

KDHE, in collaboration with the Kansas Association of the Medically Underinsured, the Kansas Pharmacy Association and the Kansas Hospital Association, is finalizing an antiviral dispensing toolkit. The completed toolkit will be available by the end of this week.

Pre-registration by pharmacies for dispensing the state cache of antivirals will begin next week with all antivirals requiring a physician's prescription.

Three purposes for the cache of antivirals are:

1. To serve the uninsured and underinsured populations of our state;
2. Public health protection measures;
3. Assurance of availability in case the normal community supply of antivirals is interrupted.

The following items were addressed during the call by the subject matter experts.

- Distribution of vaccine will begin around the end of September, but unfortunately with very small quantities. Initial distribution will be based on target populations.
- KDHE has received unofficial guidance from the CDC stating that billing will be allowed at public health clinics. Charging patient fees will not be allowed but billing third party payers will be allowed.
- There is still confusion as to why all persons with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) are not being tested. KDHE is looking to local partners to help communicate the surveillance strategies and laboratory confirmation policies.
- KDHE will be focusing on vaccine safety information in upcoming media messages.

Resources

[Previous Issues of H1N1 Public Health Connections](#)

[KDHE Website](#)

[CDC Website](#)

[Flu.gov](#)

[Public Health Connections](#)

[KSDE Website](#)

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Notes from the Weekly H1N1 Conference Call

*presented by Sue Bowden, Director Immunization Program
Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, KDHE*

Sue Bowden, Director of the Immunization program for KDHE, provided in-depth vaccine manufacture and availability details from the US Food and Drug Administration and CDC, as well as new details on H1N1 groups and recommendations, vaccine distribution, administration, documentation and safety.

Her entire H1N1 conference call notes can be downloaded by clicking the Know What to Do About the Flu logo.



EPIDEMIOLOGY/SURVEILLANCE

*presented by Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist and Director
Bureau of Surveillance and Epidemiology, KDHE*

- The level of ILI activity has increased across the US in recent weeks with circulated viruses typically type A or H1N1.
- Kansas is seeing increases in ILI activity all across the state and has seen an increase in laboratory confirmed cases.
- KDHE is encouraging ILINet sites and hospitals to submit their surveillance data and randomly collected specimens per the protocol KDHE has provided.
- Recruitment of ILINet sites has increased the number to 58. Target for ILINet sites is 75 sites statewide with good representation in each region. KDHE will continue recruitment, especially in counties with population density of 20 people per square mile or greater.
- Beginning in September the CDC wiped the slate clean in regards to case counts and started over for the fall influenza season, reporting only aggregate hospitalizations and deaths. You will note this on their Website.
- KDHE is submitting hospitalization and death data weekly to CDC, but there is no standardization on this data between states so it is difficult to make comparisons between states.
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the world's largest telephone survey. Back in January and February there were questions on the survey related to knowledge and attitudes regarding Pandemic Influenza. Normally BRFSS data is not available until the following spring, but since the data could be valuable, CDC has made the information available this fall for planning and response efforts currently underway. This data will be shared with local partners as soon as possible. In addition, starting in September, the BRFSS included questions that can be used for surveillance of influenza-like illness. These data will be included in the weekly surveillance and epidemiology report when available.
- Click the Q&A logo to view questions and answers.



COMMUNITY MITIGATION

CDC Guidance for Responses to Influenza for Institutions of Higher Learning

presented by Karl Milhon, Director, Policy & Planning Section
Bureau of Disease Control & Prevention, KDHE
and Brenda Nickel, Child Health consultant
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE

KDHE held conference calls with private colleges on Monday, Sept. 20, and will have calls with technical and community colleges in the next couple of weeks to review CDC Guidance for Responses to Influenza for Institutions of Higher Learning and answer questions they may have regarding community mitigation measures. For more in-depth information click on the flu.gov logo.



New guidance from CDC was released for small businesses. Businesses are important partners to ensure the wheels of the nation's economy continue to turn, even if faced with absenteeism, restricted services, and supply chain disruptions. The new guidance provides resources and information to reinforce that the most important thing businesses can do to prepare their business is to have a written plan. The Guidance Planning for 2009 H1N1 Influenza: A Preparedness Guide for Small Business is available by clicking on the small business building logo above.



WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL

Every Friday the KDHE sponsors a "2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic, Briefing and Group Discussion" for local health departments and community partners. The call is scheduled for 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. The new conference call number is **(866) 725-4463**, code **32256634**.

Because of the large volume of callers we strongly encourage community partners to meet together for the conference call whenever possible in order to allow the maximum number of listeners through the system.

A recording of the Friday, Sept. 18, H1N1 update conference call is now available. To access the recording and playback by phone, please follow these instructions:

1. Dial (800) 642-1687
2. Enter the conference ID for Friday, Sept. 18, call 30224724.

If you have questions concerning this Friday's call please contact Mindee Reece, Director, Bureau of Public Health

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Notes from the H1N1 PIO Conference Call September 18, 2009

presented by Maggie Thompson, Director of Communication,
Office of the Secretary, KDHE

Television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) are in the final approval stage and will be available next week. KDHE will initially post them for download on the H1N1 section of the KDHE Website at

www.kdheks.gov.

The PSAs are scheduled to begin airing Oct. 5 through a contract with the Kansas Broadcasters Association.



- The *H1N1 – One Bad Bug Prevention* Poster is now available via the H1N1 Downloads section, click on the logo above. KDHE will soon be printing copies for distribution, but please feel free to access and print from the H1N1 Website.
- *H1N1 One Bad Bug Logo* – Logos are now available in both English and Spanish at the H1N1 Downloads section of the H1N1 Website.
- *Index of KDHE Publications for the H1N1 Flu Virus* – This document contains a listing of the H1N1 materials that have been created by KDHE. The index describes where the documents are located on the H1N1 Website, provides a brief description and also provides a link to each document. The index was sent out through KS-HAN Sept. 17, however there are already additional materials that need to be added. The Office of Communications, KDHE will plan on updating and distributing that document once a week. Anyone wanting a copy that doesn't receive it through KS-HAN should contact mthompson@kdheks.gov.
- *Difference Between the Cold and H1N1/Seasonal Flu* – This document has been created and is posted in the Individuals and Families section of the H1N1 Website, and is available in both English and Spanish.
- *When to Seek Medical Care and H1N1 & Seasonal Flu: What Senior Citizens Need to Know* – These documents are in the final review process and will be available soon.
- *H1N1 - Questions and Answers Brochure* – This document has recently been updated and posted in the Individuals and Families section on the H1N1 Website. Please discontinue using the earlier version and utilize the new version instead. The brochure is available in both English and Spanish.
- *Screen Saver* – An H1N1 screen saver is being created that will soon be available for download on the H1N1 Website.
- *Billboard/Print Advertisement/Movie Theatre Screen Images* are in the process of being completed and will be made available as soon as possible.