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## **CDC H1N1 Flu Website Situation Update, January 2, 2010**

### **Key Flu Indicators**

Each week CDC analyzes information about influenza disease activity in the United States and publishes findings of key flu indicators in a report called [FluView](#). During the week of December 20-26, 2009, certain key indicators decreased, others increased, and still others remained the same compared to the previous week. Below is a summary of the most recent key indicators:

- [Visits to doctors](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) nationally increased slightly this week over last week. This is the first increase in this indicator after eight consecutive weeks of national decreases. The increase in the percentage of visits to doctors for ILI during this is likely influenced by fewer people going to the doctor for routine health care visits during the holiday season, as has occurred during previous seasons.
- Overall [hospitalization](#) rates for this season were unchanged from the previous week in all age groups.
- [The proportion of deaths](#) attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) based on the 122 Cities Report increased over the previous week and is now back above the epidemic threshold after dipping below it last week for the first time in 11 weeks. (The epidemic threshold is the point at which the observed proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia or influenza is significantly higher than would be expected at that time of the year in the absence of substantial influenza-related mortality.)
- In addition, four flu-related [pediatric deaths](#) were reported this week compared to 9 reported last week: two of these deaths reported this week were associated with laboratory confirmed 2009 H1N1, and two were associated with influenza A viruses that were not subtyped. Since April 2009, CDC has received reports of 289 laboratory-confirmed pediatric deaths: 243 due to 2009 H1N1, 44 pediatric deaths that were laboratory confirmed as influenza, but the flu virus subtype was not determined, and two pediatric deaths that were associated with seasonal influenza viruses. (Laboratory-confirmed deaths are thought to represent an [undercount](#) of the actual number. CDC has provided [estimates about the number of 2009 H1N1 cases and related hospitalizations and deaths](#).)
- Four states are reporting [widespread influenza activity](#); a decline of three states from last week. They are: Delaware, Maine, New Jersey and Virginia.
- Almost all of the influenza [viruses](#) identified so far continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception.

\*All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

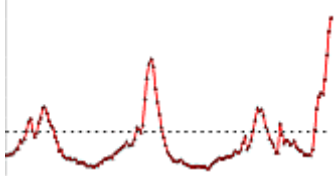
[Learn more >>](#)

### **U.S. Situation Update**

[Weekly Flu Activity Estimates](#)



[U.S. Patient Visits Reported for Influenza-like Illness \(ILI\)](#)



[U.S. Influenza-like Illness \(ILI\) Reported by Regions](#)



**Laboratory Confirmed Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30 to December 26, 2009**

Posted December 31, 2009, 1:30 PM ET

Data reported to CDC by December 29, 2009, 12:00 AM ET

Cases Defined by	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Influenza Laboratory-Tests**	37,090	1,697

\*Reports can be based on syndromic, admission or discharge data, or a combination of data elements that could include laboratory-confirmed and [influenza-like illness](#) hospitalizations.

\*Laboratory confirmation includes any positive influenza test (rapid influenza tests, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA, or culture), whether or not typing was done.

The table shows aggregate reports of all laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations and deaths (including 2009 H1N1 and seasonal flu) since August 30, 2009 received by CDC from U.S. states and territories\*\*. This table will be updated weekly at 11 a.m. For the 2009-2010 influenza season, states are reporting based on new case definitions for hospitalizations and deaths effective August 30, 2009.

CDC will continue to use its traditional surveillance systems to track the progress of the 2009-2010 influenza season. For more information about influenza surveillance, including reporting of influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths, see [Questions and Answers: Monitoring Influenza Activity, Including 2009 H1N1](#).

The number of 2009 H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths reported to CDC from April – August 2009

is available on the [Past Situation Updates page](#).

For state level information, refer to [state health departments](#).

International Human Cases of 2009 H1N1 Flu Infection

See: [World Health Organization](#).

\*\*States report weekly to CDC either 1) laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations and deaths or 2) pneumonia and influenza syndrome-based cases of hospitalization and death resulting from all types or subtypes of influenza. Although only the laboratory confirmed cases are included in this report, CDC continues to analyze data both from laboratory confirmed and syndromic hospitalizations and deaths.

<b>U.S. Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality</b> Posted December 31, 2009 (Updated Weekly) Data reported to CDC by December 26, 2009				
Date Reported	Laboratory-Confirmed 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pediatric Deaths	Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza A Subtype Unknown Pediatric Deaths	Laboratory-Confirmed Seasonal Influenza	Total
<b>This Week (Week 51, December 20-26, 2009)</b>	2	2	0	4
<b>Since August 30, 2009</b>	183	41	1	225
<b>Cumulative since April 26, 2009</b>	243	44	2	289

This table is based on data reported to CDC through the [Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance System](#). Influenza-associated deaths in children (persons less than 18 years) was added as nationally notifiable condition in 2004.

For more information about influenza-associated pediatric mortality, see [FluView](#).

For more information about the U.S. situation, see the [CDC H1N1 Flu U.S. Situation page](#).

## International Situation Update

This report provides an update to the international situation as of December 23, 2009. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to [report laboratory-confirmed 2009 H1N1 flu cases and deaths](#) on its Web page. These laboratory-confirmed cases represent a substantial underestimation of total cases in the world, as most countries focus surveillance and laboratory

testing only on people with severe illness. The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus continues to be the dominant influenza virus in circulation in the world. For the most recent period in which data are available, from December 6 to December 12, 2009, 90.8% of influenza specimens reported to WHO were 2009 H1N1, 1.0% were seasonal A (H1), 1.1% were A (H3), 5.6% were influenza A viruses that were not subtyped, and 1.6% were influenza B viruses. In temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere, sporadic cases of 2009 H1N1 have been reported in recent weeks but no sustained transmission has been observed. In tropical regions of the Americas and Asia, influenza activity due to 2009 H1N1 remains variable. In temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere influenza activity remains geographically widespread, however influenza-like illness (ILI) activity due to 2009 H1N1 has returned to near or below baseline in North America and overall pandemic influenza activity appears to have recently peaked in most European countries. Influenza trends in Western and Central Asia remain variable.

For more information about the international situation, see the [CDC H1N1 Flu International Situation page](#).

## **CDC Experts Contributing to WebMD's Focus on Flu Blog**

In collaboration with WebMD, experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are guest blogging and helping to answer questions on WebMD's Focus on Flu Blog. Check out recent CDC blog post by Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, Medical Officer Senior Service Fellow in CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities -- [Guard Your Children from 2009 H1N1 Influenza](#).

## **Recent Updates of Interest**

- [UPDATE: Weekly FluView Map and Surveillance Report for Week Ending December 26, 2009](#)  
During week 51 (December 20-26, 2009), influenza activity decreased slightly in the U.S. 154 (3.9%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza. Four states reported geographically widespread influenza activity, 13 states reported regional influenza activity, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 19 states reported local influenza activity, Guam and 13 states reported sporadic influenza activity, and one state reported no influenza activity, the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.
- [UPDATED: Laboratory Confirmed Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths from August 30 to December 26, 2009](#)  
Overall flu activity decreased slightly in the United States during the week of December 20-26, 2009, as reported in FluView. The number of states reporting widespread flu activity decreased from 7 to 4. Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness increased, although the proportion of tests for influenza that were positive continued to decline and the overall hospitalization rates for this season were unchanged from the previous week. Flu-associated deaths among all ages increased from the previous week, but fewer deaths in children were reported compared to the prior week (4 versus 9). Flu is unpredictable and activity can rise and fall throughout the season, but flu is likely to continue for months, caused by either 2009 H1N1 viruses or regular seasonal flu viruses.
- [UPDATE: 2009 H1N1 Flu International Situation Update](#)  
This report provides an update to the international situation as of December 28, 2009. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to report updated 2009 H1N1 flu-associated laboratory-confirmed cases and deaths on its Web page.
- [UPDATED: Antiviral Drugs for the 2009-2010 Influenza Season](#)  
This podcast discusses the use of antiviral drugs for the treatment and prevention of influenza, including 2009 H1N1, during the 2009-2010 influenza season.

## Additional Updates on the CDC H1N1 Flu Website

To learn about other recent updates made to the CDC H1N1 Flu Website, please check the "What's New" page on the [CDC H1N1 Flu website](#).

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### Get H1N1 Updates & Health Tips via Text Message

Sign up to get health updates sent via text message. Messages are sent about three times a week with relevant H1N1 flu updates and timely health tips.

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