



Sedgwick County...
working for you

H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update

Local News:

On Wednesday, October 28, the Sedgwick County Health Department's H1N1 Vaccine Clinic opened for the first time. The clinic is located at the Wichita Mall (4031 E. Harry Street, 67218). During the first week of operations, the clinic served healthcare and pregnant women only and distributed more than 1,000 vaccines.

Last week, the clinic ran out of injection vaccines due to the large demand from pregnant women, who can only receive injection-form vaccine, and the limited supply of injectable vaccine received. To date, Sedgwick County has received just over 23,000 vaccines. The third shipment of vaccine, received October 23, was given to healthcare workers, pregnant women and five special needs school-based clinics in Sedgwick County. A fourth shipment of vaccine arrived November 4 and will be administered to pregnant women, healthcare workers, caregivers of and those who share households with infants younger than six months of age, children age six months to four years old, and children five through 18 years who have chronic medical conditions. The clinic will be open from 2 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 4, through Saturday, November 7, or until vaccine runs out.

Healthcare providers who have previously registered to receive vaccine either as direct ship-to-sites or to pick up vaccine from the Health Department are also beginning to receive more vaccine this week.

Surveillance Update - For the week ending October 30, Wesley Hospital's Emergency Department reported a 63% decline in the number of patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI), relative to the previous week. Verbal reports from Via Christi Regional Hospital indicate such a surge in patient load that complete reporting was difficult. This may have also impacted Wesley's reporting capacity, resulting in the decline. It is too early to suggest a downward trend.

For the week ending October 30, school reports show a 64% decrease in absenteeism of students and teachers in Sedgwick County schools than previous week. Only six Sedgwick County schools reported absenteeism greater than ten percent. This week cannot however be easily compared to previous weeks due to many school days closed for parent-teacher conferences. Again, continued surveillance will be necessary to predict trends.

Sedgwick County continues to answer H1N1 questions through e-mails at flu@sedgwick.gov and the call center, 316-660-5558. Currently, the call center has logged from 170 to over 350 calls each day and responds to about 100 e-mails per day.

RESOURCES:

Visit the Sedgwick County Web site at www.sedgwickcounty.org for a copy of various fact sheets as well as Hand Washing Flyers.

For more information, call 2-1-1 or the H1N1 call center at (316) 660-5558 or e-mail flu@sedgwick.gov



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H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update - Continued

State News:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has created a Web site where public clinic providers can register their H1N1 vaccination clinics. The information collected (including location, dates, times, etc.) will be placed on the KDHE Web site that will direct Kansans to the clinics.

Surveillance Update - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) found that there was a steady state-wide increase in the number of laboratory-confirmed H1N1 cases for the week ending October 24. During this time period, Kansas saw a 55 percent increase from the previous week in the number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza. Three more deaths were announced on October 29; none of these patients had underlying health conditions. Statewide, the percentage of influenza-like illness (ILI) visits at reporting outpatient clinics remained relatively steady. For the week ending October 24, there were fewer hospital admissions for pneumonia and influenza among people age 0-24. There was a higher percentage of admissions, compared to the previous week, among persons age 25+. The statewide percentages of school absenteeism (for three school categories) increased slightly with the southeast region reporting the highest overall percentage of schools reporting at least ten percent absenteeism. The number of elementary schools reporting at least ten percent absenteeism more than doubled (18 to 39 percent). The percentage of high schools reporting at least ten percent absenteeism decreased in five of seven Kansas regions. Kansas City Metro high schools saw the largest decrease, from 36 to 13 percent. The south-central region was the only region reporting an increase in high schools with at least ten percent absenteeism.

National News:

On October 24, President Obama signed an emergency declaration for H1N1 flu. This proclamation gives U.S. Health and Human Services the ability to waive legal requirements for medical treatment facilities. These legal requirements are being waived because they can limit the ability of the nation's health care system to respond to the surge of H1N1 patients.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized intravenous (IV) peramivir for emergency use. This antiviral drug may be appropriate for hospitalized and/or critically ill H1N1 patients who are not responding to oral or inhaled antiviral treatments or may be unable to take treatment orally or by inhaling.

Tips to Protect Yourself and Others from the H1N1 Flu:

- Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Wash your hands.
- Keep living and work areas clean.
- If you are sick, stay home. Do not get in close contact with those who are ill.

Symptoms to Watch For:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees
- Body aches
- Coughing
- Sore throat
- Respiratory congestion
- In some cases, diarrhea and vomiting