



Sedgwick County...
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H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update

Local News:

On August 24, 2009, members of the Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) team and the Sedgwick County Health Department attended the Governor's H1N1 Pandemic Influenza Summit. Governor Mark Parkinson and other leaders from across the state discussed the H1N1 pandemic. The summit was held in Topeka with broadcast locations across the state.

Members of the Pandemic Influenza Work Group (PIWG) met on September 10 for the first time since the close of the spring H1N1 response efforts. The meeting included a hand-washing presentation, a vaccination update and a request for volunteers.

Two weeks ago, Sedgwick County received the first shipment of the H1N1 influenza vaccine. About 3,000 doses of the vaccine, in nasal spray (FluMist) form, were received. As recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the vaccine went directly to local hospitals to vaccinate health care workers.

On October 13, Sedgwick County, Via Christi and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosted a media event to answer questions about the arrival of H1N1 flu vaccine to our community. The second shipment of 6,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine was received on October 20. These vaccines (3,000 injection and 3,000 nasal spray) will also be given to Sedgwick County health care providers.

The following is the allocation plan for Sedgwick County regarding priority order of groups for vaccination:

1. Health care workers
2. Pregnant Women
3. Children 6 months through 5th grade
4. Caregivers for babies ages 0 – 6months
5. Children in grades 6 – 12 (through age 18)
6. Persons age 19-24
7. Persons age 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza
8. All who want to be vaccinated

Surveillance Update - Two weeks ago, Wesley Hospital's Emergency Department saw 334 patients with influenza-like (ILI) symptoms, an increase of 201 patients from the previous week. The average age of patients seen at Wesley during that week was 14 years with the median age being seven years.

For the week ending October 17, seventy-three schools in Sedgwick County reported absentee data (for faculty and students). Of these schools, 65 percent of elementary schools, 50 percent of middle schools and 28 percent of high schools had absentee rates greater than 10 percent.

- Private schools: average 16 schools reporting daily; 9.5% average absentee rate
- USD 259: average 20 schools reporting daily; 10.2% average absentee rate
- USD 260: average five schools reporting daily; 11.4% average absentee rate
- USD 262: average three schools reporting daily; 7.7% average absentee rate
- USD 264: average five schools reporting daily; 6.3% average absentee rate
- USD 267: one school reporting daily; 17.7% average absentee rate
- USD 268: average two schools reporting daily; 6.2% average absentee rate

Lastly, Sedgwick County officials are working to respond swiftly to media requests to assure we are sharing timely information. In addition to fact sheets and press releases, a special call center and email address has been set up for community partners. The email address is flu@sedgwick.gov and the phone number is 316-660-5558. Members of the public can get additional information by calling 2-1-1. Several requests have been made for speakers to address groups about H1N1. A speakers bureau has been set up for this purpose. Requests for H1N1 group presentations should also go to flu@sedgwick.gov.



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H1N1 Influenza (Flu) Update - Continued

State News:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in combination with state health departments coordinate the ILINet. In the past, this network of outpatient clinics has had 25 sites in Kansas. Due to the unique situation of the current flu season, the number of sites in Kansas has been increased to 74 during the next 12 months.

Surveillance Update - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is no longer collecting specimens from each person with flu-like symptoms who visits a doctor. To monitor the spread of the disease, KDHE will continue to collect specimens from patients that have been hospitalized and from a select group of clinics and hospitals across the state that are submitting weekly updates on the number of patients with flu-like symptoms. These weekly data submissions began the week ending October 10. For the first week of reporting, admission rates for pneumonia or influenza were generally higher in southern parts of the state with the highest rates in the southwest and south central areas. During this time, deaths due to pneumonia or influenza accounted for 6.6 percent of all deaths compared to 6.5 percent during the previous week.

National News:

On October 19, the CDC issued a health advisory with recommendations for treatment of suspected influenza. The CDC recommends no antiviral medications for persons without complications. However, antiviral medication is recommended for patients who are at risk of developing a severe disease. Since medication is most effective when administered within 48 hours of the onset of the illness, the CDC does not advise waiting for laboratory confirmation of influenza before beginning treatment.

The CDC announced on October 14 that the commercial supply of antiviral drugs (Tamiflu® and Relenza®) for adults is meeting demand and therefore the CDC will not currently be distributing additional medication from the strategic national stockpile. Should the demand exceed the national supply of antiviral drugs, the CDC is prepared to assess the need for additional drugs.

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

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.