

H1N1(A) Influenza – South Dakota Department of Health Weekly Backgrounder Friday, October 23, 2009 – as of 9 a.m. (Central)

Provided every Friday to update partners about H1N1 flu preparedness and prevention and archived at <http://doh.sd.gov/H1N1/>. (New information noted in red.)

General Information

- H1N1(A) continues to present as moderate illness
- Pregnant women, young children, those with chronic health conditions most at risk; elderly less affected, may have immunity due to previous exposure to similar viruses
- CDC H1N1 website – <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

SD Case Information (updated every Friday at <http://doh.sd.gov/H1N1/surveillance.aspx>)

- SD's flu activity continued to increase through week 41 (ending Oct 16) – 235 new H1N1 cases, 79 hospitalizations, 2 deaths (cumulative since 9/1: 865 cases, 159 hospitalizations, 4 deaths)
- Overall, 7% of school children absent due to illness (242 schools reporting, 69,579 total students)
- 73% of confirmed cases & 53% of hospitalizations are younger than 19
- Big increase in rapid antigen testing with 2018 of 7,596 rapid tests (27%) being positive
- Nationally, flu activity widespread in 41 states and influenza-like illness, flu-related hospitalizations and flu-related deaths are all higher than expected for this time of year. No signs of increase in severity and mortality of virus.

New Guidance & Resources from the Centers for Disease Control

- **Antivirals**
 - [Updated Recommendations](#) | [For Children and Adolescents](#) | [For Obstetric Health Care Providers](#) | [Questions & Answers](#) | [General Information for the Public](#)
- Flyer: [Fight Flu - For First Responders](#)
- Flyer: [Flu can harm you and your baby. Vaccination Can Protect You Both!](#)

Vaccine Information – H1N1

- Federal projections for weekly allocation of doses continue to fluctuate – based on the current projects, SD anticipates vaccination of the second tier of priority groups beginning mid-November. The week of October 26-30, targeted vaccination in limited day care settings will begin in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Vermillion, Pierre, Lower Brule and Crow Creek.

First Tier (Oct – Nov)

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 mos
- Kids 6 mos to 4 years
- Kids 5-18 years with chronic health conditions
- Health care and emergency medical services workers

Second Tier (Nov-Dec)

- Kids 5-18
- Adults 25-64 with chronic health conditions
- Young adults 19-24

- CDC has a new [vaccine supply site](#) showing national numbers of doses allocated, ordered and shipped. It is updated every Friday and includes a breakdown of doses

shipped to states. Vaccine delay related to production issues, not safety or sterility of the vaccine.

- H1N1 flu vaccines have not been associated with any unexpected adverse events (or possible side effects). H1N1 vaccine has similar safety profile to seasonal flu vaccines, which have very good safety track records.
- DOH shipping H1N1 vaccine as soon as it arrives; expectation that providers in turn administer those doses as quickly as possible to all high risk groups. **H1N1 doses should be entered into the SD Immunization Information System within 48 hours of administration – necessary to track coverage in high risk populations and determine when vaccine can be offered beyond risk groups.**
- As more vaccine available, it will be administered beyond priority groups
- Federal govt purchases vaccine, supplies to administer it and distributes to states
- Vaccination is voluntary
- Vaccine is free but some providers may charge an administration fee

Vaccine Information – Seasonal

- For more about seasonal supply, refer to IVATS (<http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats>).
- Nationally, the systems that look at seasonal influenza vaccinations administered/ billed show many more people have been vaccinated this season than at same time last year, likely due to early availability of vaccine.
- As of Oct 9, 82 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine had been distributed – about 71% of doses expected this season.
- **Seasonal flu vaccine should be given as available** to appropriate target groups; SD reported 525 hospitalizations for seasonal flu last year and 4 deaths