

12/1/2009

* NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.

2009 H1N1 Pandemic UPDATE Second Wave

The second wave of the H1N1 pandemic is officially over. We will continue to see scattered cases over the next few weeks. During the first wave (4/24/09 – 9/18/09) there were a total of 18 Thurston County residents hospitalized with suspected H1N1, and 2 deaths. Reporting criteria changed so that during the second wave (9/19/09 – 11/28/09) all cases of suspected influenza that were hospitalized became a reportable condition. There were 61 cases hospitalized and one death reported in the second wave. The highest numbers of more severe illness continue to be in the 25-49 age group. Although a significant number of youth age under 24 were hospitalized, many were not seriously ill. Among those seriously ill, the most common risk factors included **smoking, asthma, obesity and diabetes**.

The third wave of the pandemic is expected in January and February. Unfortunately, we will also be seeing adenovirus, RSV and other common respiratory viruses at around the same time. Diagnosis will be more challenging since the rapid flu kits are so unreliable. The only way you will know that your high risk patients do not have H1N1 is if they are vaccinated.

Vaccinating Adults at Risk

To date, 100% of Obstetricians and Pediatricians and 90% of Family Practice providers offer H1N1 vaccine to their patients at risk. There are relatively fewer resources for non-pregnant adults at risk. Since mortality in Thurston County has occurred among adults with underlying health conditions, it is important that additional points of access be identified for these individuals. Because of continued limited vaccine availability we are waiting until mid to late December to make vaccine widely available in pharmacies.

- ✓ Detailed instructions to become a H1N1 vaccine provider can be found on the Thurston County web site:
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/personalhealth/influenza/swineflu/informationforproviders.html
- ✓ Or you can contact Jillian Heist at 360-867-2523 or heistj@co.thurston.wa.us

If you choose not to provide vaccine to your high risk patients, Providence St. Peter Employee Health will help vaccinate high risk patients older than 24 years of age by referral from their Physician. Appointments for your patients can be made by calling 360-493-4341.

ACIP (CDC) target groups:

- Pregnant women (all trimesters)
- All youth age 24 and under
- Parents and caregivers of children under 6 months of age
- All persons 25 to 64 with chronic medical conditions that put them at risk of severe illness due to influenza.
- Health care and emergency medical workers

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH, Health Officer: (360) 867-2501



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Seasonal influenza vaccine is also available in limited quantities, please check on our H1N1 (Swine) Flu webpage for locations.

Most up-to-date information for the public, including vaccine availability at:

Public Information Line 360-709-3080
Health Department website www.co.thurston.wa.us/health