

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH

Volume 11, Issue 4

October 2009

Berrien County Influenza Surveillance

- Weekly school reports as well as reports from local healthcare providers comprise the majority of our surveillance data.
 - Schools historically have been good indicators of influenza activity in the community
- Last week, 157 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported by schools.
 - This is more than double the 69 cases seen the previous week.
- As of September 1, all hospitalizations or deaths related to any strain of influenza are required to be reported in MDSS.
- Most patients with clinical illness consistent with uncomplicated influenza do not require diagnostic influenza testing for clinical management. Patients who should be considered for influenza diagnostic testing include:
 - Hospitalized patients with suspected influenza
 - Patients for whom a diagnosis of influenza will inform decisions regarding clinical care, infection control, or management of close contacts
 - Patients who died of an acute illness in which influenza was suspected

2009 Novel H1N1 Vaccine

- Healthcare providers who want 2009 Novel H1N1 vaccines or free antivirals from the national stockpile must enroll in the H1N1 program.
 - Providers receiving free antivirals must be on MCIR and agree to provide the antivirals to patients free of charge.
 - It is not too late to enroll. Please contact Gwen Agens at 927-5696 for more information
- Enrolled providers are able to begin ordering vaccine as of September 30 with the first wave of vaccine being delivered the week of October 5.
 - Orders must be sent to the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department for approval.
- **The first batch of vaccine available will be FluMist** nasal spray. Injectable vaccine will be available in the coming weeks.
 - FluMist is approved for use only in **healthy** individuals ages 2-49 years.
 - Remember the live-live rule indicating that patients receiving more than one Live Attenuated Inactive Viral vaccines must wait at least 4 weeks between doses.
- For individuals receiving both seasonal and 2009 Novel Influenza vaccines, the timing of vaccination does not matter as long as one of the vaccines is an injection.
- Seasonal and 2009 Novel H1N1 vaccines can be administered the same day in different injections sites.
- The primary target groups for the 2009 Novel H1N1 vaccination are:
 - Pregnant women
 - Children/Young Adults 6 months-24 years
 - Adults 25-64 with underlying medical conditions
 - Parents/caregivers of infants under 6 months
 - Healthcare workers with direct patient contact

Vaccine Safety

- The 2009 Novel H1N1 vaccine is being made using the same methods, manufacturers, and safety procedures as seasonal flu vaccine that has a long and reputable history of being safe. No significant severe adverse effects were ob-

For additional vaccine information, please see the following:

<http://www.bchdmi.org>

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm

<http://www.flu.gov>

For influenza questions, please call the Pam Quinn at 927-5636.