



H1N1 Update – February 8, 2010 – Dr. Frank Lavoie

There is little new information regarding H1N1 and seasonal influenza activity in Maine. SMMC does have H1N1 vaccine if any employees still wish to receive it. We have no available seasonal influenza vaccine for adults, although we have some pediatric vaccine. The following is information from Maine the CDC:

Nationally, influenza activity is reported to be sporadic in most states, with no states reporting widespread activity. Almost all of the influenza viruses identified to date continue to be 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir with rare exception. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#whomap>.

A total of 11 people in Maine have been hospitalized the past month with H1N1, including 4 children. Of these hospitalizations, 4 included an admission to an intensive care unit, including 1 child and 2 young adults. Only 1 of the 11 had been vaccinated at least a few days prior to illness and only 2 had received early antiviral medicines.

There has been another death due to H1N1, bringing the total to 19 reported since August. This death occurred in an adult in the 25-49 age group in southern Maine. All deaths related to H1N1 in Maine have occurred among people with underlying health conditions.

Important Resources:

- www.maine flu.gov: the most comprehensive information available regarding clinics, vaccine supply and other healthcare provider information
- Health Care Providers' Clinic Consultation Line: 1-800-821-5821, available 24 hours per day
- Public Information and Referral Line: 211, available now 8 am - 8 pm 7 days per week (note that this has changed from a Maine CDC phone number)