

AGENDA ITEM #7
June 23, 2009

UPDATE

M E M O R A N D U M

June 19, 2009

TO: County Council sitting as the Board of Health

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Update from County Health Officer**

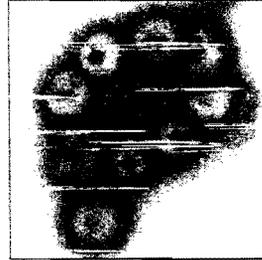
Dr. Ulder Tillman, Health Officer for Montgomery County, will be present to provide the Board of Health with updates on several topics including the H1N1 Swine Flu.

Attached is the main page information on H1N1 Swine Flu from the county's website (© 1) and a June 19, 2009 update from the Centers for Disease Control (© 2-6) that includes information on the number of cases and deaths in each state (© 3-6).

COUNTY MARYLAND

H1N1 (Swine) Flu Information

Based on new guidance released today, May 5, 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) no longer recommends that communities with a laboratory-confirmed case of influenza A H1N1 consider adopting school dismissal or childcare closure measures. Rockville High School and other Maryland schools will reopen on Wednesday, May 6.



To keep the H1N1 flu virus from spreading, we continue to urge the public to help stop the spread of germs and illness:

- Always cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue—and throw the tissue away. Or cough or sneeze into the inside of the elbow.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze and before you eat. Alcohol hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol) will do if soap and water are unavailable.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth. These are places germs can enter the body easily.
- Try to keep at least six feet away from sick people. This is called social distancing. Swine flu, like all flu, is spread through the air so keeping some distance will give the virus space to drop to the ground if someone is coughing or sneezing.
- Monitor yourself and your family for symptoms of fever, chills, headache, sore throat, cough, body aches, and vomiting or diarrhea. **If you are sick, stay home from work, school or other public places until you are feeling well. Persons who have difficulty breathing or believed to be severely ill should seek medical attention.**

Please visit the links below for information on what you can do to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus. Information is also included for health care professionals.

Information for Residents

- [The Citizen's Common Sense Swine Flu Checklist](#) (MD State Department of Health & Mental Hygiene)
- [Statement by Montgomery County Health Officer Dr. Ulder J. Tillman Regarding Probable Case of H1N1 \(Swine\) Flu](#)
- [Leggett & O'Malley Join Dr. Weast, Local and State Health Officials to Announce Rockville High School Closing, Chart Next Steps on H1N1 Flu Virus; Leggett Activates County Emergency Operations Center, Extends Phone Hotline Hours](#) ([Press Release](#) | [Video](#))

Information for Health Care Providers

- [Interim Guidance on Specimen Collection, Processing, and Testing, Case Definition of Suspected](#)
- [Revised Lab-Based Influenza Testing](#)
- [Interim Guidance on Specimen Collection for Sentinel Providers and LHD](#)

Other Resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Swine Influenza \(flu\)](#)
- [Key Facts about Swine Influenza \(CDC\) Spanish](#)
- [MD State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#)
- [Swine Flu Health Advisory \(CDC\) English Arabic Burmese Kirundi Somali Vietnamese](#)
- [Swine Flu FAQs \(WHO\) English French Spanish Chinese Arabic Russian](#)
- [Cover your Cough \(NYC DHMH\)](#) available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Creole, English, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

H1N1 Flu



More Images

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

Site last updated Jun 19, 2009, 11:00 AM ET

A Pandemic Is Declared

On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to [Phase 6](#) in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread. The WHO designation of a pandemic alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of world.

WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus.

[Learn More >>](#)

WHO Declares H1N1 Flu Pandemic

- [Statement from HHS Secretary Sebelius & DHS Secretary Napolitano](#) Jun 11, 2:30 PM ET
- [Webcast: U.S. Response to Pandemic Declaration](#) Jun 11, 2:15 PM ET
- [CDC Press Conference Transcript](#) Jun 11, 12:30 PM ET
- [CDC Press Conference Audio](#) Jun 11, 12:30 PM ET
- [WHO Press Conference](#) Jun 11, 12:00 PM ET

General Info on H1N1 Flu

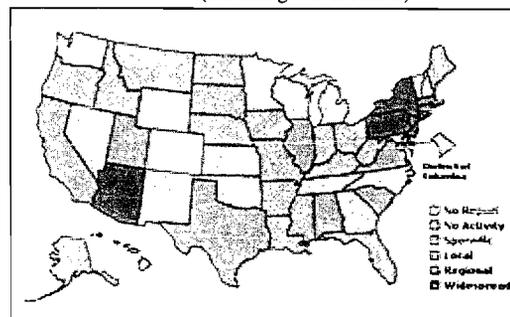
- [H1N1 Flu & You](#)
- [Antiviral Drugs](#)
- [Taking Care of a Sick Person](#)
- [Facemask & Respirator Use](#)
- [Images of the Virus](#)
- [Audio & Video](#)
- [Social Media](#)

Info for Specific Groups

- [Parents & Caregivers](#)
- [Pregnant Women](#)

H1N1 Flu Situation Update

Map of Weekly Flu Activity Estimates
(Including Novel H1N1):



See also [FluView Weekly Surveillance Report](#)

[Full update with state case counts >>](#)
(updated each Friday)

- [Schools, Childcare Programs, & Colleges](#)
- [Travelers & Travel Industry](#)
- [Clinicians](#)
- [Laboratorians](#)
- [Adults with HIV Infection](#)
- [Businesses and Employers](#)
- [Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

More on the Situation

- [Guidance](#)
- [Reports & Publications](#)
- [Press Briefings](#)
- [Past Updates on the Situation](#)
- [Q & A: CDC's Online Reporting](#)

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

- **Stay informed.** This website will be updated regularly as information becomes available.
- Influenza is thought to **spread mainly person-to-person** through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
 - Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Find healthy ways to **deal with stress and anxiety**.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information.

Related Links

- [State Health Department Websites](#)
- [PandemicFlu.gov](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\): Influenza A\(H1N1\)](#)
- [FDA: 2009 H1N1 \(Swine\) Flu Virus](#)
- [FDA: FDA Authorizes Emergency Use of Influenza Medicines, Diagnostic Test in Response to Swine Flu Outbreak in Humans](#)
- [GenBank Influenza Virus Resource \(swine influenza A \[H1N1\] sequences\)](#)
- [WHO: Reducing excess mortality from common illnesses during severe pandemic](#)
- [WHO: Pandemic flu preparedness & mitigation in refugee & displaced populations](#)
- [WHO: Protocol for antiviral susceptibility testing by pyrosequencing](#)
- [WHO: Sequencing primers & protocol](#)
- [WHO: CDC protocol of realtime RTPCR for swine influenza A\(H1N1\)](#)
- [WHO: Additional Guidance](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

NOTE: This is a rapidly evolving situation and current guidance and other web content may contain variations in how this new H1N1 virus of swine origin is referred to. Over the coming days and weeks, these inconsistencies will be addressed, but in the interests of meeting the agency's response goals, all guidance will remain posted and new guidance will continue to be issued.

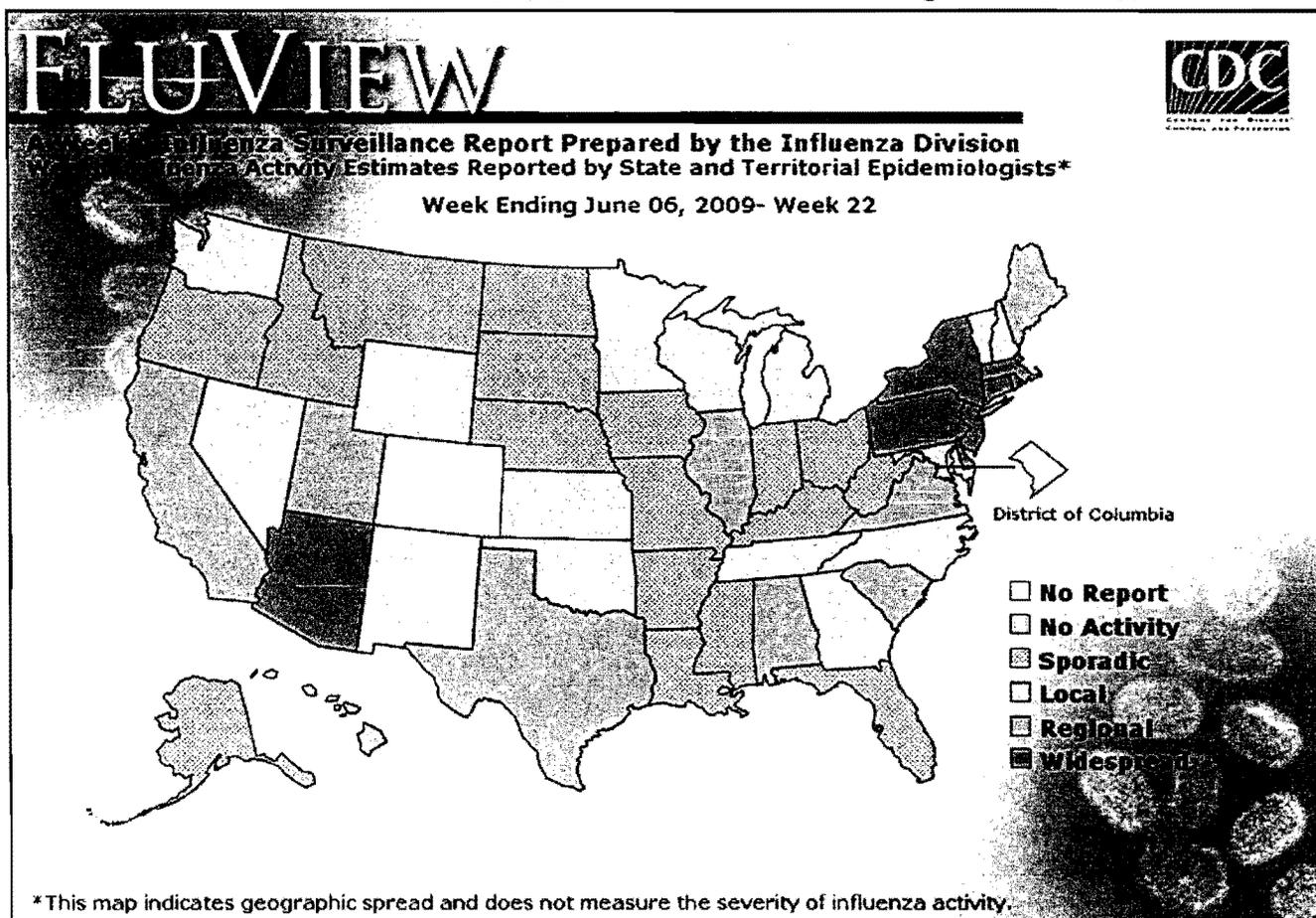


H1N1 Flu

Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update June 19, 2009, 11:00 AM ET

Map: Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists [Activity levels indicate geographic spread of both seasonal and novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses]

(Posted June 12, 2009, 5:30 PM ET, for Week Ending June 6, 2009)



For more details about the data in the map above, see the [FluView Surveillance Report](#) for the week ending June 6, 2009. For information about how this map is updated, see [Questions & Answers About CDC's Online Reporting](#).

Summary of Situation

Updated June 11, 2009, 12:30 PM ET

A Pandemic Is Declared

On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to [Phase 6](#) in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

Table. U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection

Web page updated June 19, 2009,
11:00 AM ET. *Updated on 6/19/09*

Data reported to CDC by June 18, 2009, 11:00 AM ET.

States and Territories*	Confirmed and Probable Cases	Deaths
STATES		
Alabama	172	
Alaska	23	

4

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread. The WHO designation of a pandemic alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of world.

WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus. It's uncertain at this time how serious or severe this novel H1N1 pandemic will be in terms of how many people infected will develop serious complications or die from novel H1N1 infection. Experience with this virus so far is limited and influenza is unpredictable. However, because novel H1N1 is a new virus, many people may have little or no immunity against it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result. In addition, currently there is no vaccine to protect against novel H1N1 virus.

In the United States, most people who have become ill with the newly declared pandemic virus have recovered without requiring medical treatment, however, CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this pandemic in the coming days and weeks. In addition, this virus could cause significant illness with associated hospitalizations and deaths in the fall and winter during the U.S. influenza season.

Background

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus of swine origin that first caused illness in Mexico and the United States in March and April, 2009. It's thought that novel influenza A (H1N1) flu spreads in the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread, mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus, but it may also be spread by touching infected objects and then touching your nose or mouth. Novel H1N1 infection has been reported to cause a wide range of flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. In addition, many people also have reported nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

The first novel H1N1 patient in the United States was confirmed by laboratory testing at CDC on April 15, 2009. The second patient was confirmed on April 17, 2009. It was quickly determined that the virus was spreading from person-to-person. On April 22, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better coordinate the public health response. On April 26, 2009, the United States Government declared a public health emergency and has been actively and aggressively implementing the nation's pandemic response plan.

Since the outbreak was first detected, an increasing number of U.S. states have reported cases of novel H1N1 influenza with associated hospitalizations and deaths. By June 3, 2009, all 50 states in the United States and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were reporting cases of novel H1N1 infection. While nationwide U.S. influenza surveillance systems indicate that overall influenza activity is decreasing in the country at this time, novel H1N1 outbreaks are ongoing in parts of the U.S., in some cases with intense activity.

CDC is continuing to watch the situation carefully, to support the public health response and to gather information about this virus and its characteristics. The Southern Hemisphere is just beginning its influenza season and the experience there may provide valuable clues about what may occur in the Northern Hemisphere this fall and winter.

CDC Response

CDC continues to take aggressive action to respond to the outbreak. CDC's response goals are to reduce the spread and severity of illness, and to provide information to help health care providers, public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this new public health threat.

CDC is issuing updated [interim guidance](#) in response to the rapidly evolving situation.

Clinician Guidance

CDC has issued interim guidance for clinicians on [identifying and caring for patients](#) with novel H1N1, in addition to providing [interim guidance on the use of antiviral drugs](#). Influenza antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) with activity against influenza viruses, including novel influenza H1N1 viruses. The priority use for influenza antiviral drugs during this outbreak is to treat people hospitalized with influenza illness, and to treat people at increased risk of severe illness, including pregnant women, young children, and people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes and other metabolic diseases, heart or lung disease, kidney disease, weakened immune systems, and persons with neurologic or neuromuscular disease.

Public Guidance

CDC has provided guidance for the public on [what to do if they become sick with flu-like symptoms](#), including infection with novel H1N1. CDC also has issued instructions on [taking care of a sick person at home](#) and the use of [facemasks and respirators to reduce novel influenza A](#)

Arkansas	18	
Arizona	645	7
California	1245	8
Colorado	103	
Connecticut	767	3
Delaware	223	
Florida	562	1
Georgia	51	
Hawaii	279	
Idaho	47	
Illinois	2526	8
Indiana	223	
Iowa	92	
Kansas	97	
Kentucky	108	
Louisiana	134	
Maine	42	
Maryland	263	
Massachusetts	1270	1
Michigan	442	2
Minnesota	365	1
Mississippi	81	
Missouri	46	1
Montana	44	
Nebraska	81	
Nevada	198	
New Hampshire	187	
New Jersey	603	2
New Mexico	155	
New York	1300	24
North Carolina	125	
North Dakota	41	
Ohio	63	
Oklahoma	112	1
Oregon	219	1
Pennsylvania	942	3
Rhode Island	94	1
South Carolina	83	
South Dakota	17	
Tennessee	121	
Texas	2519	10
Utah	755	8
Vermont	43	
Virginia	135	1
Washington	588	3
Washington, D.C.	33	
West Virginia	77	
Wisconsin	3008	1
Wyoming	63	
TERRITORIES		
Puerto Rico	18	

(H1n1) transmission. Everyone should take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs, including frequent hand washing and people who are sick should stay home and avoid contact with others in order to limit further spread of the disease.

Testing

CDC has developed a PCR diagnostic test kit to detect this novel H1N1 virus and has now distributed test kits to all states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The test kits are being shipped internationally as well. This will allow states and other countries to test for this new virus.

Vaccine

Vaccines are a very important part of a response to pandemic influenza and the U.S. Government is aggressively taking early steps in the process to manufacture a novel H1N1 vaccine, working closely with manufacturers. CDC has isolated the new H1N1 virus, made a candidate vaccine virus that can be used to create vaccine, and has provided this virus to industry so they can begin scaling up for production of a vaccine, if necessary. Making vaccine is a long multi-step process requiring several months to complete.

Stockpile Deployment

CDC has deployed 25 percent of the supplies in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to all states in the continental United States and U.S. territories. This included antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices. The influenza A (H1N1) virus is susceptible to the prescription antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir. These supplies and medicines will help states and U.S. territories respond to novel H1N1 virus.

Surveillance

Novel influenza A (H1N1) activity is now being detected through CDC's routine influenza surveillance systems and reported weekly in FluView. CDC tracks U.S. influenza activity through multiple systems across five categories. While our influenza surveillance systems indicate that overall influenza activity is decreasing in the United States, novel H1N1 outbreaks are ongoing in different parts of the U.S., in some cases with intense influenza-like activity. Most of the influenza viruses being detected now are novel H1N1 viruses.

Shared Responsibility

Individuals have an important role in protecting themselves and their families.

- Stay informed. Health officials will provide additional information as it becomes available.
- Everyone should take these everyday steps to protect your health and lessen the spread of this new virus:
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
 - If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.
 - Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.

More on the WHO Pandemic Declaration

- [Statement from HHS Secretary Sebelius & DHS Secretary Napolitano](#) Jun 11, 2:30 PM ET
- [Webcast: U.S. Response to Pandemic Declaration](#) Jun 11, 2:15 PM ET
- [CDC Press Conference Transcript](#) Jun 11, 12:50 PM ET
- [CDC Press Conference Audio](#) Jun 11, 12:30 PM ET
- [WHO Press Conference](#) Jun 11, 12:00 PM ET

More on the Situation

- [Guidance](#)
- [Reports & Publications](#)
- [Press Briefing](#)
- [Past Updates on the Situation](#)
- [Questions & Answers About CDC's Online Reporting](#)

- Links to non-federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. These links do not constitute an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by CDC or the federal government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at these links.

Virgin Islands	1	
TOTAL*(53)	21,449 cases	87 deaths
*Includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.		
This table will be updated each Friday at 11 AM ET.		
International Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection See: World Health Organization .		
NOTE: Because of daily reporting deadlines, the state totals reported by CDC may not always be consistent with those reported by <u>state health departments</u> . If there is a discrepancy between these two counts, data from the state health departments should be used as the most accurate number.		
For more information about how these case counts are updated, see Questions & Answers About CDC's Online Reporting .		