

Weekly Influenza Update

May 11, 2009

Wisconsin: The background rate of influenza-like illness is currently at 2.0% of primary care visits. There are 414 confirmed isolates of H1N1 flu. Wisconsin has the second highest count of confirmed cases in the Nation. This is likely due to the excellent response of Wisconsin clinicians in obtaining clinical specimens for testing. This does not imply that Wisconsin is a focal point of H1N1.

Across the U.S. [from the CDC]: CDC has reported 2600 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu and 3 deaths in the United States. Human infections with this new virus have been confirmed in 43 states plus the District of Columbia at this time: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. The number of confirmed cases continues to follow an exponential model with a doubling time of 2.1 days.

Antiviral Therapy: Clinical judgment is an important factor in treatment decisions. Persons with suspected novel H1N1 influenza who present with an uncomplicated febrile illness typically do not require treatment unless they are at higher risk for influenza complications, and in areas with limited antiviral medication availability, local public health authorities might provide additional guidance about prioritizing treatment within groups at higher risk for infection.

Treatment is recommended for:

- All hospitalized patients with confirmed, probable or suspected novel influenza (H1N1).
- Patients who are at higher risk for seasonal influenza complications (see above).

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

Global News [from the WHO]: As of 11 May 2009, 30 countries have officially reported 4694 cases of H1N1 flu (swine flu) infection. Mexico has reported 1626 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 48 deaths. Canada has reported 284 laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death. Costa Rica has reported eight laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Argentina (1), Australia (1), Austria (1), Brazil (8), China (2, comprising 1 in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and 1 in mainland China), Colombia (3), Denmark (1), El Salvador (4), France (13), Germany (11), Guatemala (1), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Norway (2), Panama (15), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (95), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (47).

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WHO is not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the influenza A(H1N1) virus. Individuals who are ill should delay travel plans and returning travelers who fall ill should seek appropriate medical care. These recommendations are prudent measures which can limit the spread of many communicable diseases, including influenza.

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