

Influenza Update

May 4, 2009

Note: Clinicians are being bombarded with many and sometimes conflicting recommendations. I direct care providers to the guidance provided by The Wisconsin Division of Public Health:

<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=3124&linkid=903&locid=106>

or to the CDC:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>

Wisconsin: The background rate of influenza-like illness has jumped up in the past week to about 2.0%, with a number of cases in young children. This is likely due to public concern translating into increased visit frequency for persons with influenza-like illness. There have been 66 probable cases and 3 laboratory confirmed isolates of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus (S-OIV). <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/>

Across the U.S. [from the CDC]: There have now been 226 confirmed cases in the U.S. with the majority (76%) coming from New York, Texas, California, Arizona, South Carolina and Delaware. One death has been reported.

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

The number of confirmed cases in the US are following an exponential model with a doubling time estimated at 1.9 days.

Global News [from the WHO]: As of 06:00 GMT, 4 May 2009, 20 countries have officially reported 985 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. Mexico has reported 590 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 25 deaths. The higher number of cases from Mexico reflects ongoing testing of previously collected specimens. The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (85), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Costa Rica (1), Colombia (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (2), Germany (8), Ireland (1), Israel (3), Italy (1), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (4), Republic of Korea (1), Spain (40), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (15).

The number of confirmed cases globally are following an exponential model with a doubling time estimated at 1.7 days.

Other Observations:

For a nice visual to share with patients on standard hygienic practice, I direct you to a wonderful public service ad, "CATCH IT. BIN IT. KILL IT." from the UK:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsbO-YmE4qY>

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