

The 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus remains the predominate flu virus circulating in Connecticut. Laboratory confirmed cases have now been identified in all eight Connecticut counties. It appears that we are seeing increasing activity. Many schools are reporting increased influenza like illnesses. If students and staff present with influenza like illness, it most likely is the H1N1 flu. The CT DPH is only testing hospitalized patients. It is not necessary to ask that students get a confirmation from their doctor.

I would like to remind you that the CDC has excellent resources for communication (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/slv/relatedmaterials.htm>) as well as updated current information on the swine flu and guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/>. **The guidance has not changed and the CDC still recommends that students and staff with flu like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever reducing medicines.**

CT has begun receiving H1N1 vaccine over the past two weeks. The supply of H1N1 vaccine is very limited (the estimates were way off). There are unique age and health indications for different H1N1 vaccine products. We are working closely with the CT Department of Public Health to make sure those individuals who are most at risk get the proper product in a timely manner. Only small amounts of vaccine have been distributed to the providers of these groups.

At this time, the intranasal vaccine is restricted to the following priority populations;

- Healthy household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age
- Healthy hospital healthcare workers and EMS personnel
- Healthy children age 2 years to 6 years

At this time, the injectable vaccine is restricted for the following priority populations;

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants less than 6 months of age
- All children aged 6 months through 4 years
- Children age 5 through 18 years with high risk medical conditions
- Hospital healthcare workers and EMS personnel

At the present time, we do not plan on vaccinating students as there is not enough vaccine supply yet.

Our **Hotline 860-626-6640** and website **[www.tahd.org](http://www.tahd.org)** will be **updated weekly**. We will post information about clinics and identify the specific priority groups eligible to receive the vaccine. ***Please note – the designated eligible priority groups will depend on the amount of vaccine received each week.***

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Leslie