

Another Wave of H1N1?

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Public Health Notes

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*Public Health Notes is a newsletter for
health care professionals in Kalamazoo
County.*

Public Health Notes is also available
online:

www.kalcounty.com/hsd/phnotes.htm

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office at*

(269) 373-5267

Is it gone? Or is it simmering, waiting for the right moment to hit with another wave of illnesses? There is no way to predict for certain what direction Novel H1N1 Influenza will take. At this writing, we are seeing very few cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) in southwest Michigan. However, just like Michigan's weather, this calm period could change at any time. We have yet to see seasonal influenza in our community this season. Speculation is now rife as to what the coming months will bring as we enter the traditional seasonal influenza time of year.

Here is a brief H1N1 chronicle: In April 2009, the United States Influenza Surveillance discovered a new strain of influenza A (H1N1) in an increasing number of Texas and California residents. That strain quickly spread worldwide, causing illness similar to seasonal influenza. By June 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global influenza pandemic.

Southwest Michigan had an increase of influenza-like illness from the second week of October through mid-November. The last week of October was the peak with 13,908 cases reported to local health departments. Our numbers were back to baseline by mid-December and have remained at baseline since.



In Kalamazoo County, 94 residents have been hospitalized with confirmed or suspected ILI. Of those, 70 (78%) had underlying medical conditions; and 3 were pregnant. The average age of hospitalized persons is 39 years old, median 43 years old, range 1 month through 86 years. The majority (99%) of specimens that have tested positive for influenza thus far this season have been Novel H1N1. Three Kalamazoo County residents who tested positive for H1N1 died. All three deaths

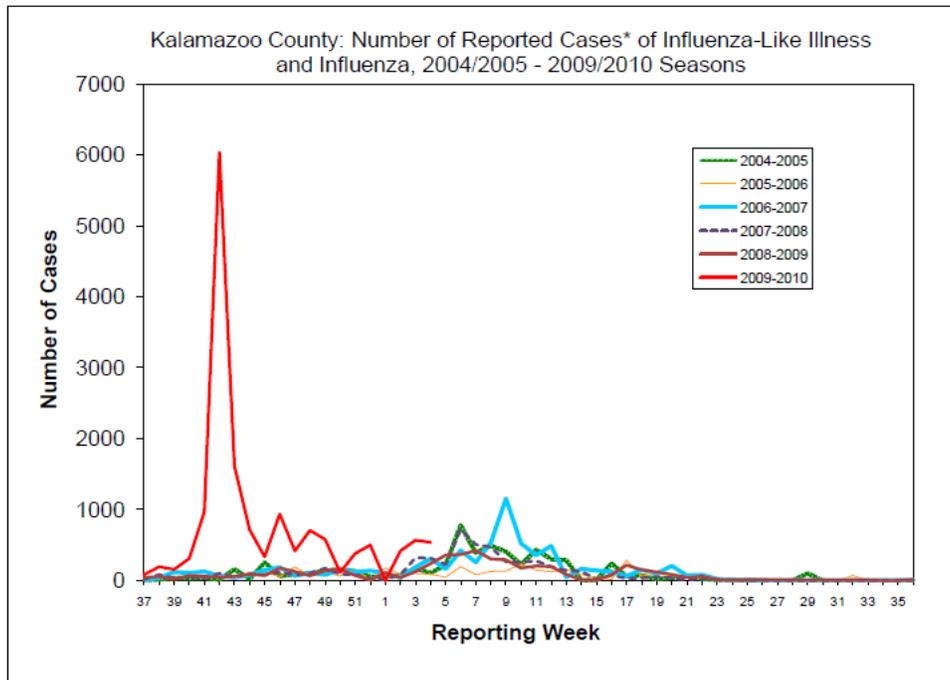
had contributing factors that put them at higher risk of complications from influenza.

It is interesting to compare the 2009 Novel H1N1 Pandemic to the 1957-58 Influenza Pandemic, which also peaked in late October, then leveled off by mid-November 1957. Schools recorded a high rate of absenteeism in the fall of 1957, as they did here with Novel H1N1. In 1958, a second wave of influenza began in January and peaked at the end of February, at a lower level than the previous October. It remains to be seen if our current pandemic conditions continue to parallel 1958's course.

In Kalamazoo County, Novel H1N1 immunization efforts have been underway since vaccine became available in October. It is estimated that 16% of our population has been vaccinated. It is important that all medical providers continue to encourage their patients to get vaccinated, especially those at high risk of complications. The Novel H1N1 vaccine is available in many medical providers' offices, pharmacies, and at local health departments. If cost is an issue, Kalamazoo County HCS offers the Novel H1N1 vaccine free-of-charge at 3299 Gull Road (the former Nazareth College dormitory). To schedule an appointment for a flu shot, call 373-5326.

We are also offering walk-in clinics in the community. We have included below the list of clinics scheduled to date. More dates and locations may be added, so please check our website for updates: www.kalcounty.com/php/pandemic.htm

Lynne Norman, RN
Disease Surveillance/ Epidemiology



Flu Clinic Schedule

Date	Location	Time
Daily	KCHCS, 3299 Gull Road	8:00-4:00
Weekly on Mondays	Hispanic American Council at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 930 Lake Street	3:00-6:00
Weekly on Tuesdays	Douglass Community Association, 1000 W. Paterson Street	2:00-5:00
Weekly on Wednesdays	Portage Community Outreach Center, 325 E. Centre Avenue	3:00-6:00
Feb 16	Comstock Colt Center, 2107 North 26 th Street	4:00-7:00



New Rules: School Immunizations

MDCH Immunization Requirements for schools as of January 1, 2010:

- TWO doses of Varicella are required for anyone aged 4 years or older without a history of chicken pox.
- ONE dose of Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) on or after the 11th birthday.
- ONE dose of tetanus/diphtheria/ acellular pertussis (TDaP) on or after the 11th birthday if 5 years since last dose of tetanus/ diphtheria vaccine (DTaP, Td, DT)

REMINDER: Please report all cases of chicken pox to Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services by phone, 269-373-5267; or by secure fax at 269-373-5060.

Penny Born, RN
HCS CD Consultant

Adult Vaccination Opportunity

Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services can now offer certain vaccines to adults who are uninsured or do not have insurance coverage of vaccines, for a per-shot administration fee of \$10 (price as of 1/21/2010). Eligible adults can call 269-373-5203 for an appointment.

The following adult vaccines qualify for this program:

- ☑ PPV23 (Pneumovax) - age 19 to 64 years who smoke or have a chronic lung, heart, liver, or metabolic disease or has a disease that lowers the body's resistance to infection. Please see CDC's Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine information sheet for specific health conditions
- ☑ Zoster (Zostavax) - age 60 and older
- ☑ Varicella (Chickenpox) - born after 1980 with no prior documentation of vaccination or evidence of immunity
- ☑ HPV (Gardasil) - females age 19-26 years
- ☑ Td/Tdap - age 19 to 64 years with no documented history of having received diphtheria- and tetanus-containing vaccine within the last ten years
- ☑ Hepatitis B - age 19 years and older who meet the high-risk criteria on CDC's Vaccine Information Statement
- ☑ Hepatitis A - age 19 years and older who meet the high-risk criteria on CDC's Vaccine Information Statement.

Roxanne Ellis, RN
IAP

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic

Overview:

- Hours of Operation: 9-4 by appointment on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 10-6 on Thursday. Sliding fee scale for clients without insurance. We can bill many insurances for services rendered.
- Testing: Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Syphilis, HIV, and Hepatitis B and C (if risk factors apply). Treatment: clients who test positive for Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis; we also test and treat contacts of these diseases.
- Field Delivered Therapy by an MDCH Disease Intervention Specialist or Disease Investigator is provided for positives that are unable to come into our clinic.

Updates & News:

- During the last quarter of 2009, Kalamazoo County saw a significant increase in Syphilis in men who have sex with men and who are co-infected with HIV. This high-risk population should be screened for Syphilis along with HIV and other STDs.
- The new CDC Guidelines recommend retesting Chlamydia and Gonorrhea positives three months after treatment.
- We are proud to offer the Clearview HIV ½ Stat-Pak Rapid Test. This new HIV Rapid Test is a waived test for fingerstick whole blood. It is a single-use immunochromatographic preliminary test for the detection of antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 and Type 2. The HIV Rapid Test takes 15 minutes to run. If the test result is reactive, then a serum sample is immediately drawn for HIV confirmation. The HIV ½ Stat-Pak is not approved for use to screen blood, plasma, cell, or tissue donors. KCHCS can test using the HIV Rapid Test for ages 13 years and older. For more information, please call 269-373-5203.

Julie Beeching, RN
STD/Imms Clinic



Tuberculin Skin Test Training Dates

Medical personnel involved in TB skin testing are welcome to attend our free workshops for certification or recertification. Classes are held in Conference Room D in the Garden Level of the Health and Community Services Building at Nazareth. Once the 4-hour Certification course has been passed, a 2-hour Recertification can be taken every 2 years. Following is the 2010 schedule:

Training – 8:00 – Noon

April 15 / July 22 / October 21

Recertification – 8:30 – 10:30

April 22 / October 28

The workshops are free and continuing education credit is offered. Registration is required. If you would like to attend one of these classes, please call 269-373-5267. Recertification is recommended every three years.

2009 Illness Outbreaks in Review

This month, Kalamazoo County had its first lab-confirmed norovirus outbreak on the New Year. When compared to a year ago, this is a late start. To contrast, beginning in November 2008 and running through February 2009, HCS investigated 15 countywide confirmed and suspected norovirus outbreaks. These GI-illness outbreaks hit congregate settings: schools, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes.

MDCH provides detailed norovirus control and disinfection guidelines. Much of this information is specific to the types of institutions affected. Updated documents are available from HCS Disease Surveillance by calling 269-373-5267.

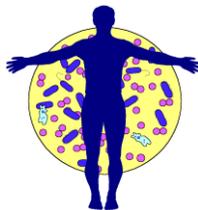
There was one foodborne outbreak reported last January. An HCS Environmental Health investigation led to the identification of a possible source point for the GI illness outbreak that afflicted attendees at two separate catered luncheons.

In February 2009, there were two schools reporting respiratory illness outbreaks. Primary symptoms were fever, sore throat, and congestion. Early in the week, our school reporting system picked up on greater-than-usual absenteeism (rates >12%) in both schools.

H1N1 arrived in late spring. The WHO quickly determined the novel influenza to be a pandemic. HCS monitored and investigated scattered reports of this illness throughout the year. The illness had a high rate of infectivity but was not highly virulent. By fall, there were outbreaks in multiple schools. This led to multiple building closures. The pandemic peaked in October and November. There is some speculation as to whether there will be another wave. Since the New Year, there have been five hospitalized cases of probable H1N1, but these have not been lab-confirmed.

The other day, a medical practice called this office wondering what was happening with regards to pertussis. In 2006, Kalamazoo County had an outbreak of 280 probable and confirmed cases of pertussis. Although the number of cases in Michigan last year was higher than in the past 30 years, in Kalamazoo County, only 33 probably and confirmed cases were reported.

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