

**Please distribute to all providers in your practice.**



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**Health Alert**  
**July 22, 2009**  
**Pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

**Current Situation**

Novel H1N1 Influenza activity in California is widespread. Clinicians should continue to expect to see large numbers of patients with influenza-like illness over the upcoming weeks. Appropriate infection control precautions in your office will help prevent the spread of infection. The City of Berkeley has had 6 confirmed cases and 1 probable. There have been 2 hospital admissions (1 ICU). Outpatient cases of H1N1 are no longer reportable, therefore future case counts will only include hospitalized or fatal cases.

**Updates**

We need your help to track influenza! The California Sentinel Provider Influenza Program contributes valuable epidemiological and virologic information to state, national, and global influenza surveillance activities. Currently there are no sentinel providers in Berkeley. Would you consider becoming one? Specimens from sentinel providers are given high priority for testing. For information about the program and the benefits to your practice visit:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Pages/CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx>

**Guidelines**

The CDC and the CDPH have published the following **new** information and guidelines in the past week.

- CDC - Considerations Regarding Novel H1N1 Flu Virus in Obstetric Settings (7/6/09)
- CDC - Interim Guidance for Novel H1N1 Flu: Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home (7/8/09)
- CDC - Three Reports of Oseltamivir Resistant Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Viruses (7/9/09)
- CDC - 10 Steps You Can Take: Actions for Novel H1N1 Influenza Planning and Responses for Medical Offices and Outpatient Facilities (7/14/09)
- CDC - Emergency Use Authorization of Tamiflu (7/14/09)
- CDC: Home Care Guidance: Physician Directions to Patient/Parent (7/16/09)
- CDPH – Lessons Learned: Guidance for Clinicians (7/10/09)

**Treatment**

Studies of treatment have indicated benefit, including reduction in mortality or hospitalization, even for patients whose treatment was started > 48 hours after illness onset. High risk or severely ill patients should receive antiviral treatment **regardless of the length of time since illness onset.**

**Pediatric Influenza Vaccine**

The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued its 2009-10 influenza policy statement. If you provide influenza vaccine to children please review this document at: <http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/news/FluPolicy2009-10.pdf>

**Since the situation may change rapidly, your best sources for information are:**

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH): <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/>
- City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth>

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