



Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Update*

Subscribe to Public Health Updates at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Health/16586.htm>

Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health



William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

2009 H1N1 Influenza Update #1

Date: Oct 22, 2009 - 1:00PM

Please Distribute to Healthcare Providers, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care, Nursing Homes, and Infection Control staff

SUMMARY:

- **Widespread influenza activity has been reported in Dutchess County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presume circulating influenza is 2009 H1N1 due to their extensive sentinel typing. DCDOH is investigating several small clusters of flu-like illness.**
- **TREATMENT: Antiviral treatment should be initiated as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) and is recommended for the following patients: Hospitalized with confirmed or suspected influenza OR with milder presentations of influenza infection AND who are at high risk for influenza complications. In particular, providers should keep in mind that pregnant women and persons with asthma are at high risk for complications due to influenza and should receive early antiviral treatment (NYSDOH Update 10/18/2009 - Section 8).**
- **NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**
 - **Any patients who do not respond to antiviral medication should be reported to DCDOH at 845-486-3402 for specimen collection and antiviral resistance testing.**
 - **All Mortalities due Influenza, including Adult Deaths, should be reported to the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH) at 845.486.3402.**

CDC recently released Updated interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season (10/16/2009). These recommendations note that treatment should not wait for test results and when indicated should be initiated as early as possible because the benefits are greatest when started within the first two (2) days of illness. www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm

DCDOH requests physicians report patients with influenza-like illness who are not responding to antiviral medications. New York State DOH is now conducting testing for resistance to antivirals. Contact DCDOH at 845-486-3402. DCDOH will assist providers with screening these specimens for antiviral resistance.

DCDOH also requests physicians to report adult influenza mortalities, in addition to pediatric influenza mortalities, to DCDOH at 845-486-3402.

NYSDOH has also posted for individuals with HPN accounts the updated recommendations:

https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/ams/postings/doc090918_8.pdf

*Health Alert- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; Health Advisory- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; Health Update- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Dutchess County Department of Health

387 Main Street, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 • (845) 486-3400 • Fax (845) 486-3447 • TTY (845) 486-3417