

EVOLUTION OF THE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Maryland, the Nation and the World

March 2009 to April 2010

March 2009

- 28 Edgar Hernandez becomes the first known H1N1 case. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports the earliest onset of H1N1 in the U.S.

April 2009

- 13 A woman dies of H1N1 in Oaxaca, Mexico, becoming the first H1N1-related death worldwide.
- 21 CDC alerts doctors to the new strain of H1N1.
- 25 The World Health Organization (WHO), declares a formal “public health emergency of international concern.” In the U.S., the first H1N1-induced school closing occurs near San Antonio.
- 26 A public health emergency is declared in the U.S.
- 27 **Governor Martin O’Malley opens the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s (DHMH) Swine Flu Operation’s Center in Baltimore**
- 29 The first H1N1-related death in the U.S. occurs in Texas.
- 29 **The first "probable" swine flu cases (6) identified in Maryland and sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for testing**
- 30 **The Governor appoints Drs. John G. Bartlett, Frank M. Calia, Thomas V. Inglesby, James P. Nataro, Ina Stephens and Ivan C.A. Walks to an advisory board to advise him and DHMH on issues related to swine flu in Maryland**

May 2009

- 1 **Governor Martin O’Malley Declares Public Health Emergency as the number of “probable” cases reaches eleven**
- 1 **DHMH activates 1-877-MDFLU4U (633-5848), the statewide toll free information line**
- 1 **Officials close four schools and cancel extracurricular activities for fourteen days**
- 2 More than 430 schools close in eighteen states due to H1N1.
- 3 H1N1 vaccine preparations begin.
- 5 CDC issues revised criteria for school closures; **Maryland schools closed due to H1N1 re-open.**

- 7 Confirmed cases of H1N1 in the U.S. tops 1,000.
- 19 **Maryland begins receipt of anti-viral medications from CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)**
- 20 H1N1 cases worldwide exceed 10,000.

June 2009

- 1 **Maryland begins daily statewide monitoring of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) seen in emergency departments and admitted to hospitals**
- 1 **61 cases of H1N1 flu confirmed in Maryland**
- 1 **DHMH establishes a secure warehouse to stockpile shipments from the SNS**
- 2 **MedImmune wins \$90 million contract to develop vaccine targeted specifically at H1N1.**
- 8 **113 cases of H1N1 flu confirmed in Maryland**
- 11 The WHO declares an H1N1 pandemic. H1N1 cases worldwide reach 30,000.
- 23 **Maryland reports first H1N1 flu related death**

July 2009

- 1 **DHMH prepares the first Governor's Weekly H1N1 Flu Report and circulates to key advisors via MEMA's Maryland Joint Operations Center**
- 2 170 deaths reported in the U.S.
- 14 Federal grant money announced for Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Response (PHER); application due July 24
- 23 **Maryland establishes a task force co-chaired by DHMH Secretary Colmers and MEMA Director Muth on statewide Continuation of Operations (COOP) and H1N1 vaccination**
- 25 Thousands of Americans are recruited for H1N1 vaccine testing.
- 27 **Maryland's state and local health officials meet with local school superintendents to share information and address the challenges and uncertainty facing Maryland school students from the novel H1N1 influenza virus.**
- 27 **Weekly meetings with DHMH and LHD staff begin to develop the content of a statewide, coordinated H1N1 mass vaccination campaign and coordinate response to the pandemic**
- 28 **799 cases of H1N1 flu confirmed in Maryland**
- 31 The WHO reports approximately 1,154 deaths worldwide.

August 2009

- 8 DHHM forms a work group with representatives from hospitals and MIEMSS to address various aspects of surge/capacity planning to prepare for H1N1
- 11 DHHM establishes a database to track and coordinate H1N1-related speaker requests
- 12 Department enters into an agreement with an outside vendor to establish a data collection system for dose tracking of H1N1 vaccine
- 13 LHDs and DHHM begin working to increase the number of available vaccinators through agreements with fire departments (paramedics) and nursing schools (nursing students)
- 14 On-line registration system for providers willing to receive H1N1 vaccine opens
- 14 Email communication with health care practitioners licensed in the State of Maryland begins
- 19 DHHM Secretaries and the Deputy Insurance Commissioner hold a meeting with health insurance companies doing business in Maryland to discuss coverage of the administration fee for H1N1 vaccinations
- 21 State issues a memo to school superintendents, co-signed by DHHM and MSDE, containing an H1N1 preparedness toolkit and guidelines for continued schooling during dismissals
- 30 The WHO reports approximately 2,837 deaths worldwide.

September 2009

- 1 Advertising campaign emphasizing flu prevention is initiated in bus interiors in Baltimore and DC suburbs
- 2 DHHM presents a full briefing on H1N1 to the Governor and Cabinet
- 3 Maryland begins deployment of masks and ventilators from SNS stockpile to hospitals
- 10 Statewide influenza activity reaches the highest CDC category: “widespread;” there is an increase in activity across all surveillance systems
- 15 The FDA approves the new H1N1 vaccine.
- 15 DHHM holds a 1-day symposium on legal issues related to H1N1
- 16 Maryland Hospital Association, along with DHHM and MIEMSS, sponsors a summit meeting to address H1N1 issues related to hospitals
- 16 Department launches refresher training for public sector nurses on intra-muscular injections
- 17 State issues a three tier Pandemic Flu Attendance and Leave policy for State employees; Level II of the policy is effective at 2:00 pm
- 18 Weekly conference calls between DHHM, Governor’s office and the Governor’s H1N1 Advisory Board begin
- 21 The U.S. government orders 251 million doses of H1N1 vaccine.

- 22 **Provider agreements and other pertinent information are sent to the 2,500+ entities which pre-registered to be ship-to sites for H1N1 vaccine**
- 23 **DHMH holds meeting with denominational school leaders from across the state to facilitate H1N1 immunization of children attending religious schools**
- 24 **DHMH holds conference call with members of the Association of Maryland Independent Schools to coordinate school-based immunization campaign for independent schools**
- 25 Forty-two schools are closed in eight states as the second wave begins.
- 27 The WHO reports approximately 4,108 deaths worldwide.
- 29 **Campaign to promote and measure flu immunization (seasonal and H1N1) among all direct health care workers in DHMH State facilities begins**

October 2009

- 2 **DHMH enters into agreement with an outside contractor to provide assistance in developing H1N1 health promotion materials for minority and priority populations**
- 2 **Maryland begins deployment of anti-viral medications from the SNS to pharmacies across Maryland**
- 5 The first batches of H1N1 vaccine become available to five priority groups; **Maryland begins daily ordering of all available doses of H1N1 vaccine from CDC**
- 7 **Maryland receives the first batch of H1N1 vaccine**
- 8 **Local health departments across Maryland begin scheduling public clinics to deliver H1N1 vaccine**
- 12 **Maryland begins school-based H1N1 vaccine campaign**
- 13 **Maryland reports its tenth H1N1-related death, hospitals struggle to meet the increased patient load**
- 20 **By this date, Maryland has shipped 144,300 doses of H1N1 vaccine to private providers and 68,500 doses to local health departments**
- 23 President Barack Obama declares the H1N1 outbreak a national emergency.
- 25 The WHO reports approximately 5,712 deaths worldwide
- 26 **Maryland continues daily orders of all available doses of H1N1 vaccine from CDC; 319,000 as of this date**

November 2009

- 2 **DHMH begins promoting Maryland flu information on Facebook**

- 6 **Governor declares State of Emergency - authorizes DHMH and MEMA to engage, deploy all resources; allows licensed paramedics, EMTs and CRTs to administer H1N1 vaccine**
- 9 **DHMH begins using Twitter to emit new information about H1N1 flu**
- 9 **By this date, Maryland has shipped 595,100 doses of H1N1 vaccine to private providers and 211,300 doses to local health departments**
- 14 **Over 200,000 H1N1 vaccinations administered to members of target groups through the local public health system as of this date**
- 15 **Local health departments continue rigorous schedule of H1N1 vaccination clinics across the State to vaccinate members of target groups**
- 13 The WHO reports signs that the early flu season peaked in North America.
- 27 **DHMH initiates marketing of flu information on Google**
- 28 **Maryland H1N1 doses ordered as of this date: 1,180,700**
- 30 Only thirty-two states report widespread influenza activity.

December 2009

- 2 **DHMH reports two cases of Tamiflu (oseltamivir) resistant H1N1 (Swine) Flu in Maryland**
- 7 **Three week radio campaign emphasizing H1N1 vaccine safety and effectiveness to primarily minority and youth audiences begins**
- 8 **Maryland expands the distribution of H1N1 vaccine to the general population, adding healthy adults and seniors to the five target groups for whom the vaccine is recommended**
- 11 **DHMH issues an Executive Order to expand the Scope of Practice for pharmacists who receive training to administer the H1N1 vaccine to individuals between the ages of 13 to 17**
- 14 **DHMH forms agreements with 12 local health departments and 14 community-based organizations to provide enhanced H1N1 outreach services to priority populations and minorities**
- 15 **By this date, Maryland has shipped 781,300 doses of H1N1 vaccine to private providers and 452,400 doses to local health departments**
- 16 Approximately 100 million doses of H1N1 vaccine become available, leading public officials to lift vaccine restrictions.
- 18 Only seven states report widespread influenza activity.
- 18 **DHMH Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities begins training program for locally-based community outreach workers focused on outreach to hard-to-reach populations**
- 19 **By this date, over 440,000 H1N1 vaccinations have been administered through the local public health system**

- 21 **“H1N1GET1” radio and TV media campaign begins in the National Capital area, sponsored by Maryland, DC and Virginia**
- 27 The WHO formally confirms 12,220 deaths due to H1N1.

January 2010

- 7 CDC estimates that 60 million Americans received the H1N1 vaccine.
- 8 The FDA and CDC affirm H1N1 vaccine safety, as most of the adverse events were “non-serious.”
- 8 **DHMH Secretary signs 30 day renewal of Executive Order allowing pharmacists to administer H1N1 vaccine to individuals between the ages of 13 to 17**
- 12 **State moves from Level II to Level I of the Pandemic Flu Attendance and Leave policy for State employees**
- 12 **By this date, Maryland has shipped 1,001,400 doses of H1N1 vaccine to Maryland private providers and 573,800 to local health departments**
- 25 **“Get Vaccinated – 2-1-1” media campaign starts through Baltimore metro area radio, TV, billboard and mass transit**

February 2010

- 2 **Bi-weekly conference call between LHDs, DHMH, MIEMSS and representatives from hospitals and health centers are suspended due to decreased activity**
- 12 CDC estimates that H1N1 may have killed as many as 17,000 Americans.
- 18 The WHO recommends that H1N1 be included in the 2010 flu vaccine.
- 23 **Maryland has ordered a total of 2,323,100 H1N1 doses by this date**

March 2010

- 5 In San Antonio, three people die of H1N1 over the past two weeks.
- 30 **Maryland has ordered a total of 2,326,700 H1N1 doses by this date**

April 2010

- 1 CDC reports that the Southeastern U.S. has seen an increase in H1N1 activity.
- 1 **Maryland announces the State’s 45th H1N1-related death**
- 2 **CDC publishes state-specific H1N1 vaccination coverage estimates; Maryland’s reported vaccination rates for all age groups (26%) and sub groups (41% of children) are higher than the US median and estimates for surrounding jurisdictions (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)**
- 5 **Statewide outreach efforts to promote H1N1 vaccination heightened during National Public Health Week.**