



**MLS: Influenza Laboratory Update #6
Update on Current Influenza Activity in
Minnesota
December 2, 2009**



Purpose of this Message:

To inform you that influenza activity has been downgraded to “local” and deaths related to influenza continue to be confirmed.

Influenza Activity – Downgraded to “Local”

Updated information from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) today reflects that influenza activity in the state has been downgraded to “local”, as reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There were no school outbreaks reported for the week and the proportion of patients visiting doctors' offices with influenza-like illness was less than one percent in those sites that reported patient visits to MDH.

Although H1N1 novel influenza activity is down, there continue to be some cases of H1N1 influenza in Minnesota. There were 21 hospitalizations due to influenza in the past week; 18 were confirmed as H1N1.

Additional Influenza-related Deaths

MDH has confirmed 10 more influenza-related deaths in Minnesota residents. One of the deaths was due to seasonal influenza Type B and occurred in a child who had underlying health conditions. The death is the first in a child associated with influenza B for the 2009-2010 season.

Since September 1, there have been three influenza B cases identified by MDH and an additional one was reported to MDH. There have been no seasonal influenza type-A viruses confirmed by MDH this fall.

Of the other 9 deaths, seven were due to H1N1, two were due to influenza A-sub-type unspecified. The deaths occurred between Oct. 27 and Nov. 19. Those who died ranged in age from a child less than 9 years to an adult in their 90s. These latest deaths due to H1N1 bring the total number of influenza deaths to 45 since April, including 39 confirmed as H1N1 novel influenza.

Health officials noted that these are deaths for which the department completed its investigation this week and that MDH continues to investigate possible H1N1 and other influenza-related deaths on an ongoing basis. Information about deaths and other H1N1-related information are posted regularly to the MDH Web site at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/stats/index.html> .

Thank you for your support of on-going influenza surveillance.

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****Please forward this to SEND-OUT personnel within your institution and Health System****

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