



# H1N1 Planning & Response (Fall 2009)

Reporting Period: 10/17/09 to 10/31/09

## SRHD SITUATION REPORT # 2

*(Prepared by Emergency Response Coordinator)*

Incident Number and Name  
H1N1 Pandemic Influenza 09-2887

11/04/09

1400

Susan M Sjoberg

Date

Time

Prepared By

### GENERAL SITUATION:

Spokane Regional Health District is actively working with partners throughout the community, region, State and north Idaho to respond to the ongoing H1N1 pandemic virus. A key focus of the effort is the H1N1 vaccination campaign along with disease surveillance, community and school mitigation, communication and public education, guidance for antiviral use, and healthcare system preparedness.

Greater than 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC were 2009 H1N1 influenza A viruses. DOH received one report of a hospitalized patient with confirmed seasonal [not 2009] H1N1. This patient acquired the infection in another country.

In Washington, influenza activity is high in both eastern and western WA. Influenza activity is increasing in western WA. Emergency department data suggest activity may be leveling off in eastern WA. Forty-eight states, including WA, are reporting widespread influenza activity. Flu activity is unprecedented for this time of the year.

The CDC is tracking the number of hospitalizations and deaths from H1N1, not total illness. The beginning of September marks the beginning of the new flu recording season so all numbers reported are as of September 1, 2009 unless otherwise noted.

SRHD Incident Command: Activated  
ECC Activation Status: Not Activated

### ILLNESS UPDATE:

Spokane County	2009	TOTALS	Select Risk Groups *							
			Children ≤ 18 yrs		Pregnant		Seniors ≥ 65 yrs		Other	
Hospitalized Total:	09/19 to 10/31	163	48	(29%)	18	(11%)	21	(13%)	76	(47%)
Last 30 Days:	10/03 to 10/31	142	39	(24%)	17	(12%)	20	(14%)	66	(46%)
Deaths Total:	04/27 to 10/31	5	0	( %)	0	( %)	0	( %)	5	(100%)
Last 30 Days:	10/03 to 10/31	4	0	( %)	0	( %)	0	( %)	4	(100%)
<b>Washington</b>										
Hospitalized:	09/19 to 10/31	736								
Deaths:	09/19 to 10/31	19								
<b>Nation</b>										
Hospitalized:	08/30 to 10/24	12466								
Deaths:	08/30 to 10/24	530								

\* Note: These numbers will not equal the reported totals.

Please note that these numbers are the totals for all laboratory confirmed, hospitalized influenza - not just H1N1, Spokane County residents.

### H1N1 VACCINE STATUS:

The volume of vaccine available from the vaccine manufactures is about 30% of what they had planned. Vaccine production is dependent upon the amount of virus produced within the eggs used to recreate the virus and the yield is lower than

expected. Vaccine is arriving regularly but in much smaller quantities than we had planned. The most recent shipments have included all formulations of the vaccine including thimerisol-free vaccine for young children and pregnant women.

#### **Vaccine:**

34800 doses arriving at 100 sites in Spokane County.

34800 of 34960 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been ordered (99 % of the allocation).

Vaccine formulation 36% nasal spray; 47% injectable; 17% thimerisol-free.

200 providers are fully enrolled in the H1N1 Vaccine Program.

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#### **VACCINE DISTRIBUTION STRATEGIES:**

Larger quantities of injectable vaccine are finally arriving in our community and it is all being directly shipped to pre-registered providers who care for high-risk patients. These include pediatricians, chronic disease specialists, and clinics who serve the under or uninsured. Quantities are still not sufficient to completely fill any order so providers are encouraged to continue faxing in their order until they have received all of their requested vaccine.

Public health has sponsored a large free public clinic - at the Spokane Arena where over 2100 vaccinations were given. The Guild School sponsored a clinic for children with special health care needs vaccinating 213 people; two school based clinics have vaccinated approximately 700 children with nasal spray vaccine.

Two additional, nasal spray only public clinics are scheduled for 11/7 and 11/14 at the valley and north YMCAs, respectively. These are aimed at healthy people ages 2 to 24, health adults 25 to 49 who are either health care workers or who live with or care for infants under 6 months of age. They are on an appointment basis. The appointment number is 324-1648.

The neighborhood centered strategy of providing vaccine at Community Centers have been rescheduled to mid-November and into December until more sufficient quantities of both injectable and nasal spray formulations of the vaccine are available.

The vaccine distribution strategy is driven by the science and epidemiology of the H1N1 disease. All individuals at increased risk of severe disease, regardless of discipline are encouraged to seek vaccination as soon as it is available to them.

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#### **HEALTHCARE SYSTEM STATUS:**

Emergency room data suggests that those presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI) is leveling off in Spokane. Influenza-like-illness accounted for 1.7% of ER visits during the week of 10/25 to 10/31 as compared to 3.4% of visits during the previous week.

Forty to fifty percent of patients in intensive care units (ICU) are suffering from ILI/pneumonia.

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#### **ANTIVIRALS:**

More pharmacies in the Spokane community are filling prescriptions for antivirals but overall usage is down as compared to two weeks ago. All Walgreen Pharmacies in Spokane, Spokane Valley, Millwood and Liberty Lake now have antivirals available from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). These supplies are to be used for the treatment of individuals who do not have insurance for prescription medications, and are free to the patient.

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#### **COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:**

No formal measures are being taken at this time. Strong prevention messaging including self-isolation, frequent hand washing and other germ fighting activities are being heavily promoted.

SRHD epidemiologists are working on a toolkit of draft letters for schools and childcare centers for various trigger points such as school closure, high absenteeism in childcare settings, etc.

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#### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGY & ACTIVITY:**

Public education and resources are the cornerstone of our strategy at this time. Since the availability of vaccine is a moving target, prevention messaging to the public is critical as is helping the public understand who is eligible for which formulation of vaccine.

We are developing radio and print campaigns aimed at young adults and young families for H1N1 prevention and where to go for additional information about vaccination. They are due to run in mid-November.

Mary Selecky, State Secretary of Health, has just released an audio file talking about the importance of seasonal flu vaccination for those 50 and over and why H1N1 is not targeted to those over the age of 65.

The SRHD website is updated nearly daily with the most current information available ([www.srhd.org/topics/h1n1vu.asp](http://www.srhd.org/topics/h1n1vu.asp)). The SRHD H1N1 hotline is updated as soon as new information is available 509-324-1495.

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#### **SURVEILLANCE:**

Syndromic surveillance data from multiple sources including emergency department chief complaint data and antiviral prescription data suggest that in the past two weeks influenza-like-illness (ILI) visits are declining in eastern WA and sharply rising in western WA. Influenza-like-illnesses remain above epidemic thresholds across the state.

School absenteeism has dropped from 26 schools reporting 30% or greater absenteeism during the week of October 13th to less than 5 schools reporting a 30% absenteeism rate during the week of October 27th.

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#### **ANTICIPATED HEALTH and MEDICAL ISSUES:**

Washington State Department of Health has requested an additional allocation of PPE (N95 respirators, specifically) from the Strategic National Stockpile. These masks will be proportionately available to the counties.

SRHD continues to support community partners in need of N95 respirators and surgical masks out of the SNS from this past spring. Those requesting respirators will be asked to assure that their normal routes for acquiring this equipment have been exhausted prior to requesting support from the SNS. Prudent policies for infection control are critical to minimizing the spread of disease as we face the reality of limited availability of protective equipment. Vaccination of front-line medical staff providing direct medical care is an essential protective measure for patients and staff.

SNS requests can come through Patti Richards (509) 324-1451.

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#### **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT:**

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is registering both medical and non-medical volunteers to help in the H1N1 response. Interested individuals are to be directed to the [www.community-minded.org](http://www.community-minded.org) website to print an application form. There are two parts to the application process. The first part is to complete the MRC application and return it to Becky Duffey, MRC Coordinator. The second part is to complete and sign (front and back) the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) application. The DEM application also needs to include a clear photocopy of the applicant's drivers license.

For medical volunteers, the DEM has temporarily waived the NIMS training requirements associated with the MRC making the process quick and efficient. Volunteers can sign up to help with H1N1 only, if they prefer not to committ to being a longer term volunteer of the MRC.

For questions about volunteering, please call Becky Duffey at 509-209-2607/ 509-444-3088.

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**WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://www.srhd.org/topics/h1n1vu.asp> OR call 509-324-1495.

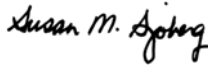
[www.cdc.gov/H1N1](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1)

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

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**Approved for Distribution:**

Signature:



Date: 11/04/09

Print Name:

Susan M. Sjoberg

Managing Executive for H1N1 Response

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**Distribution List:**

Each SRHD response staff person

EMS - Burke, Tansy, Watson

Fire - Leavenworth, Lewis, Holloway, Olson, Atwood

Spokane Police - Kirkpatrick, Stephens

Sheriff - Knezovich, Tower, VanLeuven

State Police - Turcott

DEM - Mattern, Ruby, Duty Officer

Education - Dunn, Schultz

DOH - Erickson, Gleason, Konzal

Region 9 LHJ and Tribal partners

Panhandle Health District - Kirking, Anderson

Higher Ed - Bayne, Terriff, Phillipson

Healthcare - Haworth, Ewing, Jimeno, Dawson, Martin

Healthcare - Gauron, Clinton, VanEns, Whitman, Hartman

INHS - Buchanan

AMR - Lueck

MRC - Duffey

Mental Health - Dobbs