

**Ulster County Health Department
Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza Advisory
Update 1/22/10**

Influenza Monitoring:

***Ulster County Epidemiology:** Ulster County Hospital Emergency Departments reported that the number of patients seen with influenza like illness last week has remained stable, as compared to the week ending 1/08/10. (See Figure 1) School absenteeism rates have decreased slightly, as compared to the week ending 1/08/10. It should be noted that these absenteeism rates are still within the expected range for cold and flu season.

*The most recent Ulster County H1N1 data is available for the week ending January 16, 2010.

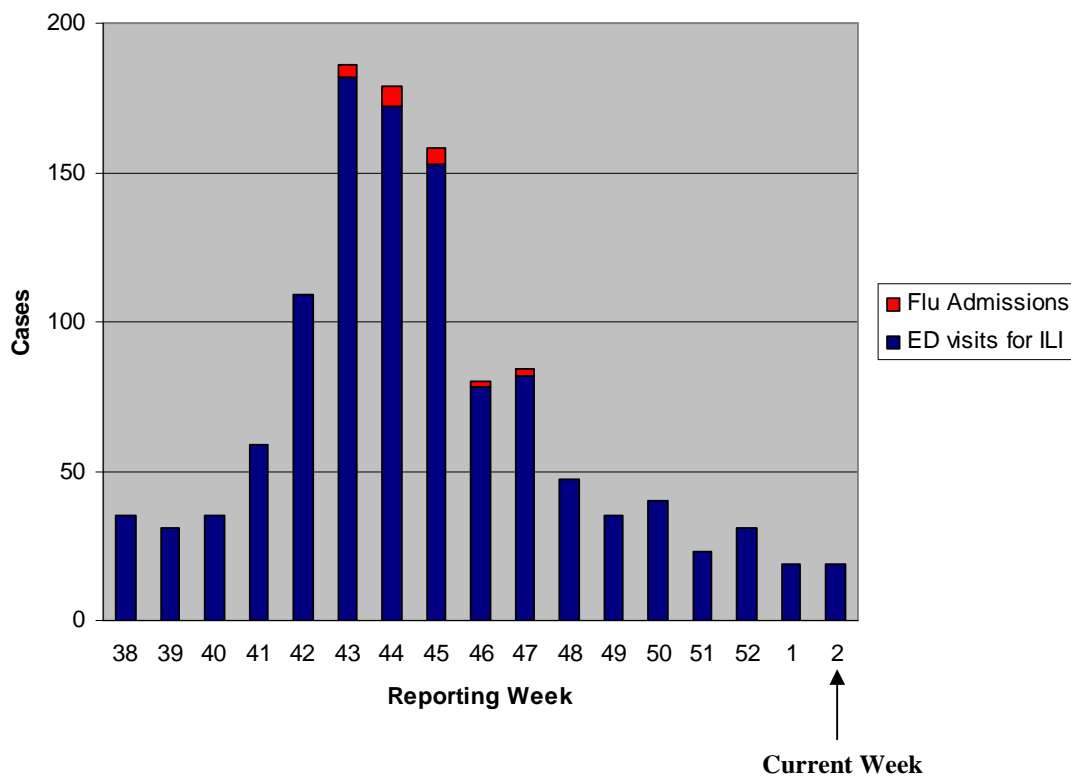


Figure 1: H1N1 Flu in Ulster County EDs: Sept. 26, 2009 (Reporting Wk 38) – Jan. 16, 2010 (Reporting Wk 2)

Status of Prevention Efforts:

Flu Vaccination Information:

Hospitals Will Again Offer Flu Vaccine to Newborns' Caregivers and Older

Patients: On January 15, 2010, Governor Paterson announced that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is reestablishing the requirement that hospitals make the H1N1 flu vaccine available to caregivers of newborns in intensive care and hospital patients who are 65 years of age or older. Below is a summary of the press release:

- Due to a limited vaccine supply in November of 2009, State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D., waived the requirement that hospitals offer influenza vaccinations to parents and other caregivers of newborns being treated in neonatal intensive care units and to patients who are 65 years of age and older;
- *Now that there is an ample supply of H1N1 vaccine, the requirement for hospitals to offer vaccine to newborns' caregivers and older patients has been reinstated.*
- Governor Paterson also issued a reminder for everyone to get vaccinated, stating: "If people do not act now to get vaccinated, a third wave of this dangerous virus becomes more likely. There is plenty of H1N1 flu vaccine available from health care providers, county health departments, pharmacies and pharmacies-within-supermarkets, and I encourage all New Yorkers to take the opportunity to get vaccinated."

H1N1 Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Health Department plans to offer free H1N1 vaccinations at five locations throughout the county during January and February. No appointments are necessary. Clinics are open to all New Yorkers six months and older who want the vaccine. The clinic schedule is as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Saturday, January 23, 2010	Trudy Resnick Farber Building 50 Center Street, Ellenville, NY 12428	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30, 2010	St. John's Episcopal Church 207 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 3, 2010	VFW Post 8645 101 Route 208, New Paltz, NY 12561	4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 6, 2010	Saugerties Senior Center 207 Market Street, Saugerties, NY 12477	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10, 2010	Town of Olive American Legion Hall 26-28 Mountain Road, Shokan, NY 12481	4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Ulster County Weekly Update

For weather-related clinic cancellations, please listen to your local radio stations. You can also find out more about clinic cancellations by calling the Ulster County Health Department Flu Hotline at 845-340-3093.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine: The Ulster County Health Department (UCHD) is offering seasonal influenza vaccinations to adults 18 years and older at the Health Department's regularly scheduled immunization clinics. Appointments are necessary. Please call the District Office nearest you to schedule an appointment.

Kingston: 340-3070
Ellenville: 647-2343
New Paltz: 883-6155
Saugerties: 246-2621

For those not eligible for Medicare Part B coverage, there will be a \$20.00 charge for influenza vaccination, payable at the clinic. Senior citizens who have Medicare Part B benefits will be able to obtain their vaccinations through Medicare. The recipient must be entitled to Part B coverage on the date of service, Medicare Part B must be the primary insurance coverage, and the Medicare Card must be presented on the date of service.

Additional Ways to Find Vaccine: If your provider has not ordered H1N1 vaccine, and does not plan to order H1N1 vaccine, call the Ulster County Health Department Flu Hotline at 845-340-3093 or log onto www.UlsterCountyNY.gov/health to get updated information about when vaccination clinics for the general public will be held. You can also check <http://www.flucliniclocator.org> to see if there are any flu vaccine clinics scheduled near you.