

H1N1 Bulletin

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Issue No. 3

This bulletin is being produced by the Departments of Health and Health Promotion and Protection to help keep you up-to-date on the status of the pandemic in Nova Scotia and across the country. It will be distributed at the beginning of each week. Please be advised that the bulletin will also be used to alert you of any urgent information.

Nova Scotia Update

As of July 29, Nova Scotia has 491 laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1, with 12 hospitalizations. On July 24, it was confirmed that there has been one death, a woman in her fifties. We are seeing severe cases of H1N1 across the province and continue to anticipate more cases throughout the summer months and into the fall.

A letter went to physicians this week advising that a new toolkit is now available for their use containing guidelines for the treatment and management of H1N1. It is posted on the Department of Health Promotion and Protection website.

In Spring 2009, the Auditor General's Office completed a performance audit on pandemic preparedness. The Departments of Health and Health Promotion and Protection as well as the Capital Health and Pictou County Health Authority were audited.

The Auditor General will table the report to the House of Assembly the morning of Thursday, July 30. The report will be available at 9 a.m. on the auditor general's website, www.oag-ns.ca. He will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. in the Red Chamber, Province House.

For tips on how to stay well and what to do if you have flu-like symptoms please visit the Department of Health Promotion and Protection website.

Summary of FluWatch Findings

Week ending July 18, 2009 (Source: FluWatch, Public Health Agency of Canada)

The overall influenza activity increased slightly this week; the national influenza like illness (ILI) consultation rate (27 consultations per 1,000 visits vs. 21) and the reported activity level (7 regions reported localized activity vs. 4) are higher compared to the last week. However, the proportion of influenza positive tests decreased for the fifth consecutive week. The proportion of specimen tested positive for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 was 98.7% this week.

As of 18 July, 2009, all provinces and territories reported a total of 10,449 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 including 1,141 hospitalizations. Among the 1,116 hospitalized cases for whom we have information, 184 (16.5%) were admitted to intensive care unit (ICU).

This week (from July 12 to July 18, 2009), ten deaths were reported (one in British Columbia, one in Saskatchewan, one in Manitoba, two in Ontario, four in Quebec and one in Nunavut) for a total of 49 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

Resources:

For ongoing information and updates please visit www.gov.ns.ca/hpp or www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.

For the latest version of Respiratory Watch, HPP's detailed surveillance report, please visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/cdpc/h1n1-influenza-groups.asp>.

For the latest update on the national situation, please visit <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch>.

For international information please visit www.who.int.

