

Novel Influenza A H1N1 Response

Utah Valley University

Updated October 20, 2009

CDC Definition of H1N1 (Swine Flu)

This spring, a new influenza virus began causing illness in people and spreading around the world. Originally called “swine flu” because the virus genes were similar to some influenza viruses that infect pigs, the new virus has been named “novel H1N1.” This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. It is spreading worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.

Risk to Individuals:

In a normal flu season in the United States . . .

- An average of 36,000 people dies from complications.
- More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu-related causes.
- Of those hospitalized, 20,000 are children younger than 5 years old.
- Over 90% of deaths and about 60% of hospitalizations occur in people older than 65.

For the H1N1 swine flu . . .

- From August 30 – October 10, 2009
 - 292 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated deaths, 2,029 pneumonia and influenza syndrome-based deaths, were reported to CDC.
 - 4,958 laboratory-confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations, 15,696 pneumonia and influenza syndrome-based hospitalizations.
- There have been a total of 4 deaths in Utah related to 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) since the beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season (which began August 30, 2009).
- The H1N1 flu has caused greater disease burden in people younger than 25 years of age than in older people.
- Few cases and few deaths have been reported in people older than 64.
- Several conditions appear to be associated with increased risk of complications: asthma, diabetes, suppressed immune systems, heart disease, kidney disease, pregnancy, and neurocognitive and neuromuscular disorders.

UVU Actions Taken:

- ✓ Letters to students, parents, faculty and staff.
 - Posted on the Student Health Services’ website
- ✓ Established a swine flu precautions site made available on the UVU main page.

- The link connected to the Student Health Services Swine Flu Precautions page.
- ✓ A hand out with CDC and hand washing instructions was passed out to students starting the first week of school and continues currently. This card is also posted on the swine flu precautions page.
- ✓ Classroom posters informing students of flu precautions and hand washing procedures.
- ✓ Swine flu information posted on campus monitors.
- ✓ Opt In program initiated. (Emergency notification for students, faculty and staff)
- ✓ Hand sanitizers were purchased and mounted in hallways.
- ✓ Flu precautions initiated in the Student Health Center.
- ✓ Flu Shots
 - Flu shots are now available in the Student Health Center (SC 221) 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
 - UVU is on the Utah Department of Health list to receive H1N1 vaccinations for high-risk individuals.
- ✓ Human Resources made plans to make influenza shots available to employees free of charge.
- ✓ Campus purchases of surgical masks.
- ✓ UVU Pandemic planning
 - EPAC and Student Health Services have formed a UVU Pandemic Plan.
 - All VPs were assigned specific parts of the Pandemic Plan pertaining to their areas.
 - The Pandemic Plan will be reviewed by the President's Council in mid October.
 - Once the Pandemic Plan has been presented and approved it can be posted on the Student Health Services' website.