

To: All Healthcare Providers:
From: Monroe County Department of Public Health

Novel H1N1 Flu Update #4

June 2, 2009

The Monroe County Department of Public Health has been notified over the past few days of an increase in the number of positive Flu A cases. Several patients have been hospitalized with asthma exacerbation and 2 had positive confirmatory tests for the novel H1N1 influenza. Transmission to healthcare workers has also been documented. Because it is not possible to prevent community transmission of influenza and mild illness at this time, the efforts should be focused on reducing and preventing severe outcomes due to infection with novel H1N1 influenza and preventing transmission in the healthcare system.

We would like you to be on the alert and **take the appropriate precautions** when evaluating patients with influenza like illness or asthma exacerbation. Emergency rooms triage system should be in place to immediately detect patients presenting with respiratory illness and appropriately isolate them. We will keep you informed when triage is no longer needed. For guidance on infection control view http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm

Testing and treatment of patients with ILI should be limited to patients who are hospitalized or have risk factors for severe disease (such as patients with asthma, age below 2 or above 65 years, pregnant women, patients with COPD, diabetes or other chronic medical illness).

Post exposure prophylaxis is considered for close contacts of novel H1N1 cases that are at high risk for severe influenza.

View recommendations <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

We would like you to report to the Disease Surveillance Unit, phone number: 753 5164, after-hours 753-5905:

- 1. Cases that are hospitalized with a severe febrile respiratory illness** (ILI, ARDS, pneumonia, asthma exacerbation).
- 2. Clusters of a community outbreak** (generally defined as a cluster of illness above baseline in non-co-habiting people who are epidemiologically linked such as school, camp, jail, group home and shelter).
- 3. Healthcare facility outbreaks** (hospitals or long term care).

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