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Considerations for P-12 Schools

August 17, 2009



Outline

- “ Epidemiology
- “ Public Health strategy
- “ Prevention measures
- “ Caring for the ill
- “ Maintaining operations

H1N1



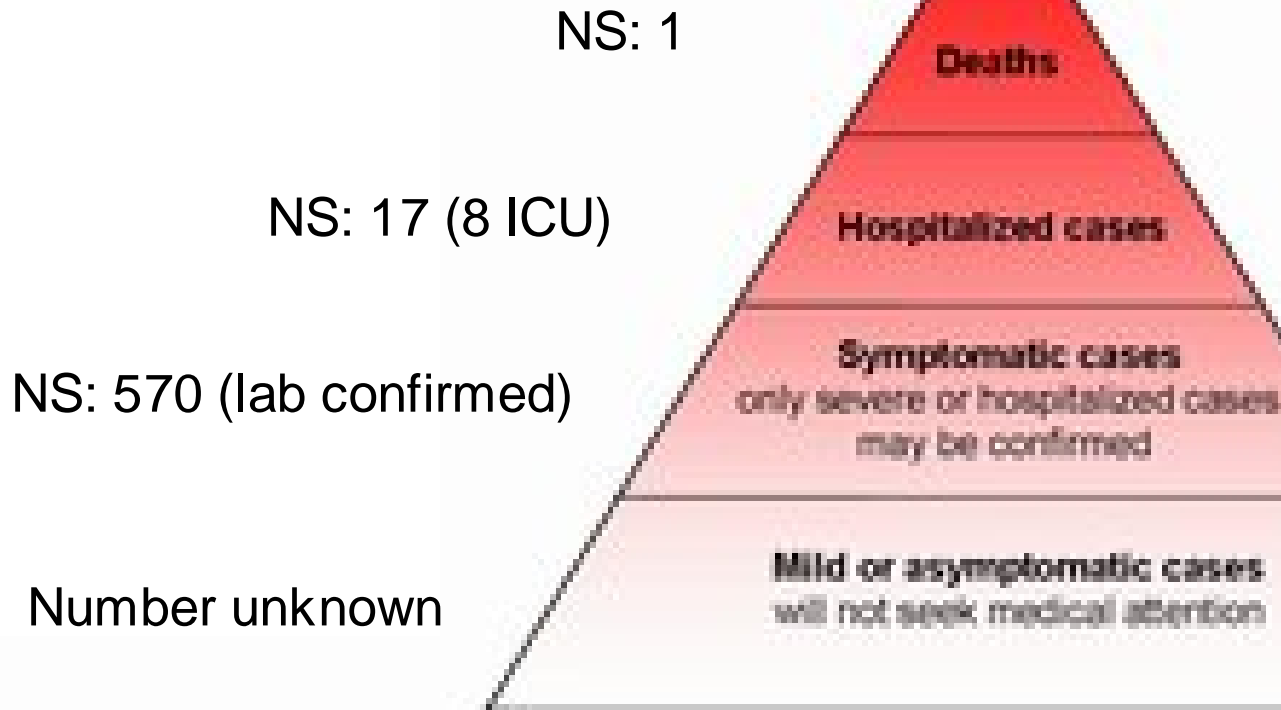
Source of Information

- “ Based on PHAC Interim Guidance Document
- “ Guidance may change if situation changes
- “ Link with public health in your area for answers to specific questions.
- “ Our focus is public health . can address HR issues.

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Spectrum of Disease



As of Aug. 15, 2009

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Pandemic

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Status as of 31 July 2009

Countries, territories and areas with lab confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Map produced: 04 August 2009 13:00 GMT

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GHIS)
World Health Organization



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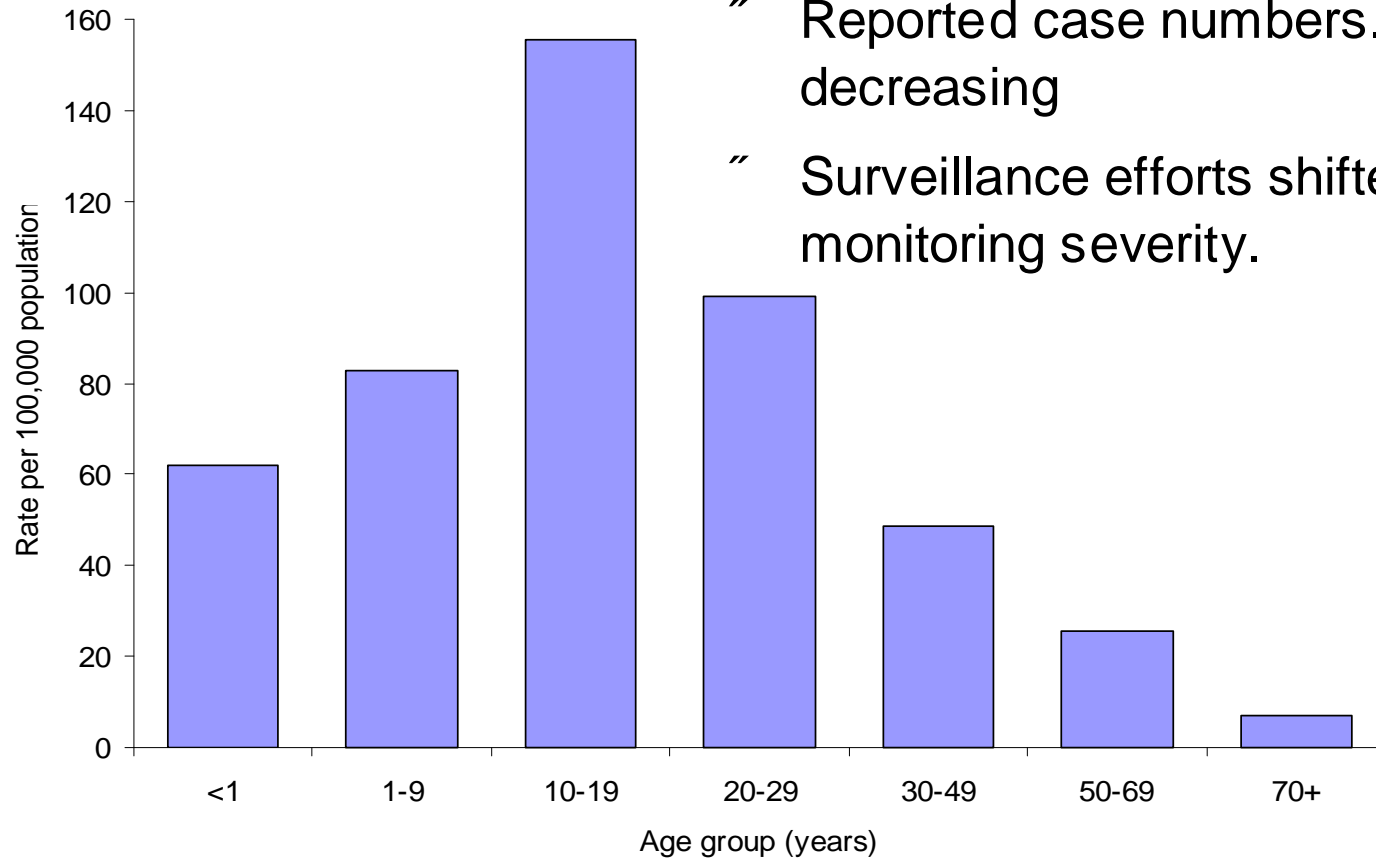
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DIRTY HANDS SPREAD INFECTION. WASH UP.



H1N1 in NS



Rates as of Aug. 1, 2009

- “ Widespread in the community.
- “ Younger age groups most affected.
- “ Reported case numbers decreasing
- “ Surveillance efforts shifted to monitoring severity.

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Predictions for 09/10

- ” Many unknowns:
 - . Timing of the second wave
 - . Virulence/severity

- ” 20 to 30% of students/staff/faculty may be ill over a several month period.

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Public Health Strategy

“ Prevent infection

- . hand hygiene and cough etiquette
- . self-isolation
- . immunization

“ Caring for the ill

- . early identification
- . treatment

“ Maintain operations

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Influenza Prevention Information

- ” Hand hygiene
- ” Cough and sneeze etiquette
- ” Environmental cleaning
- ” How to recognize influenza
- ” Self-isolation
- ” Immunization

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Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Virus

- ” Virus spreads person to person
- ” Directly: coughing and sneezing
- ” Indirectly:
 - . Virus survives for several hours to days on some surfaces. Destroyed by cleaning
 - . Self-inoculation after contact with surfaces and objects contaminated with virus

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Hand Hygiene

- “ Ensure hand washing supplies (soap and paper towels) are always available.
- “ Consider providing increased numbers of:
 - . hand wash and alcohol -based hand sanitizer stations;
 - . tissues and waste receptacles.
- “ Hand hygiene educational programs available . link with local public health.

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Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

- “ Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve.
- “ If using tissues, dispose of them into appropriate receptacle and wash hands.

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Environmental Cleaning

- “ High-touch surfaces should be cleaned twice daily.
- “ Think about: doorknobs, faucet handles, sports equipment, computer keyboards, telephones, school bus handrails etc.
- “ Use regular household or commercially available cleaning products.

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Environmental Cleaning

Consider:

- “ Educating cleaning personnel on proper cleaning techniques.
- “ Providing disinfectant wipes.
- “ Talking to school bus providers about cleaning.

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HOW TO Recognize Influenza

- “ Flu-like symptoms are:
 - . fever and/or cough and;
 - . one or more of: unusual tiredness, head, muscle or joint aches, or sore throat.
- “ Mostly a mild, self-limiting illness but can be severe
- “ Risk groups: immuno-compromised, pregnancy, underlying medical conditions

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Self-Isolation

” Students and staff with influenza-like illness (ILI) should stay home until they are:

- symptom-free;
- feeling well; and,
- able to fully participate in all normal day -to-day school activities.

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Self-Isolation

- “ Assess the risk for special settings where there may be more individuals at risk
- “ Discuss with Public Health

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III students at school

- “ Separate from others with adequate supervision until they can go home
- “ Send home with parent/guardian rather than on the bus.
- “ If child must ride the bus
 - . Sit on seat alone
 - . Cover coughs and sneezes

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Immunization

” Seasonal influenza vaccine

- . Administered as usual in Oct/Nov to high -risk groups.
- . Does not protect against H1N1.

” H1N1 vaccine . many unknowns

- . Timing . likely to start December 2009.
- . Priority groups being discussed but will be available to all who want and need it.
- . Mass clinics.

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Other Prevention Considerations

- “ Identify ways to receive illness reports from students and staff.
- “ Report absenteeism in excess of 10% of students and staff to Public Health.
- “ Report unusual or more severe illness.

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MASKS

“ The use of masks in the school setting or for the general public is not recommended because of the following:

- . Incorrect use.
- . Self-contamination issues.
- . Not an effective barrier when they are worn for extended periods of time.
- . False sense of security.

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School Closure

- “ Proactive school closure NOT recommended at this time.
- “ Reactive school closure: Evaluate on a case by case basis. Consider:
 - . Local public health concerns
 - . School and community concerns
 - . Operational concerns
 - . Significant social and economic cost.
 - . Limited effectiveness as students would congregate elsewhere.

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School Closure

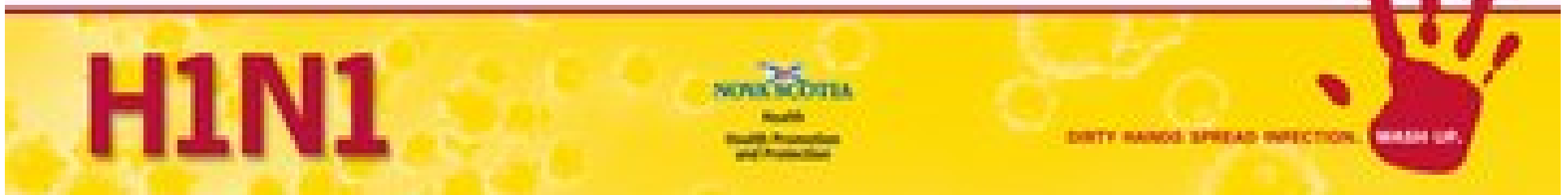
- “ Assess special events on a case-by-case basis.
- “ Consult with Public Health

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Linking with Public Health Services (PHS)

” Develop a link with local PHS and
consult as required.



Caring for the ill

- “ Not all of those who have influenza-like illness require medical care.
- “ Those who are moderately ill with risk factors, severely ill or pregnant, should seek care.
- “ Avoid clinic visits only for sick notes.

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Caring for the ill

- “ Antivirals may be used for treatment for:
 - . Moderately ill with risk factors or severely ill
 - . Pregnant women (2nd and 3rd trimester and 4 weeks postpartum)
- “ Routine antiviral use to prevent illness in exposed students and staff is not recommended.

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Maintain Operations

- ” 20 to 30% of students and staff may be ill over several months.
- ” Remember Business Continuity Planning.

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