



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

P O BOX 2448  
RICHMOND, VA 23218

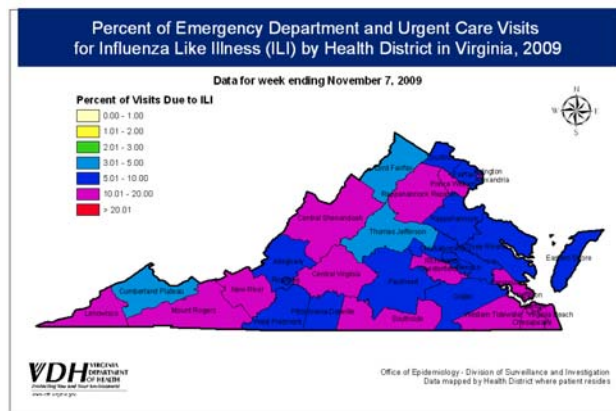
KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA, FAAP  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

TTY 7-1-1 OR  
1-800-828-1120

November 13, 2009

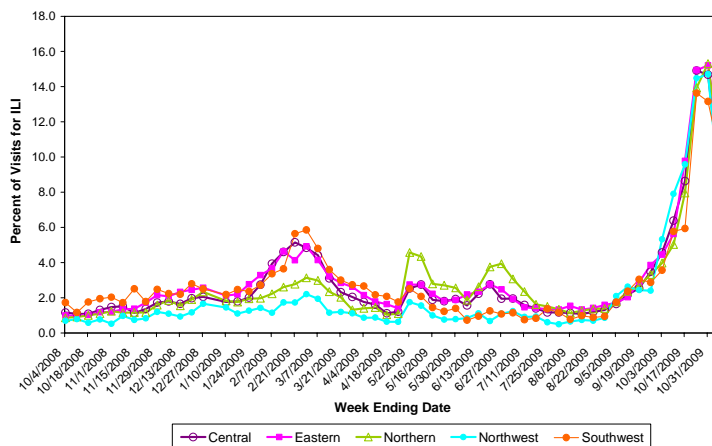
Dear Colleague:

This past week **Surveillance** has revealed a small decrease in H1N1 influenza activity, although Virginia is still at “widespread flu activity” status. Remember that just as many people get sick on the downward slope of the flu curve as do on the upslope and we need to maintain our efforts. Flu activity during pandemics is typified by multiple waves. However, by robust community mitigation, public awareness and strategic use of available vaccine these epidemic curves can be flattened with the end result of less morbidity and mortality. Again, thank you for your willingness to share important information and maintain the accuracy of our surveillance data.



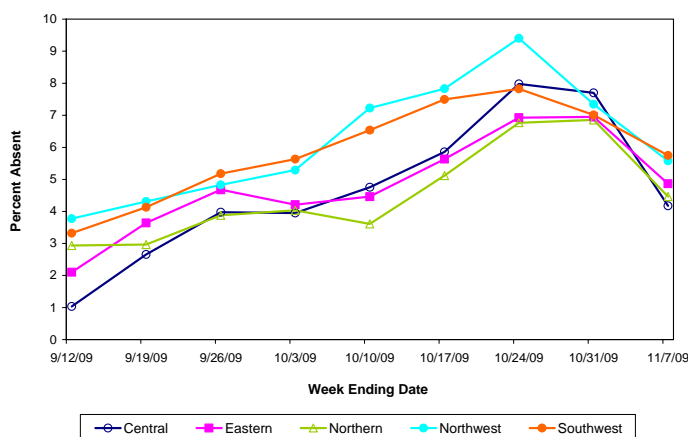
The percent of visits to Virginia emergency rooms and urgent cares has started to drop. However, they still exceed the peak of the prior two flu seasons. H1N1 continues to be the causative agent in 99% of laboratory-typed flu samples.

Percent of Emergency Department and Urgent Care Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) by Region, Virginia, 2008-09 and 2009-10 Influenza Seasons



**Community Mitigation** continues to focus on clusters of cases in schools and congregate living facilities, but the number of outbreaks reported to VDH has decreased over past weeks.

Average Daily Public School Absenteeism by Region, Virginia, 2009-10 School Year



### **Direct Clinical Care**

VDH has a stockpile of N95 respirators available to healthcare personnel during the H1N1 pandemic should your usual procurement processes be delayed or disrupted. To order this personal protective equipment (PPE), health care organizations should place one order for their agency/facility via our web based ordering system by accessing our website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/H1N1/ProviderResources.htm> and clicking on **“Request N95 Respirators from VDH.”** This stockpile release is intended to meet current gaps related to N95 shortages. Please request only that amount needed to fill the gap until your usual supplier is able to meet your order. The stockpile is limited and we will do our best to meet your requests. Orders are compiled at the end of each week with shipment initiated the following week. For questions, please call the VDH Inquiry Center at 1-877-ASK-VDH3.

**Communications** through our VDH Inquiry Center and our [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov) website continues. Please encourage your patients to use these handy resources.

VDH is in the process of switching our on-line vaccine locator to Google Flu Locator at [www.google.com/flushot](http://www.google.com/flushot). We will only be entering data for VDH clinics. Google will be

providing instructions for private providers who want to use this site to advertise the availability of seasonal or H1N1 vaccine to the public.

H1N1 **Vaccination** opportunities are expanding as more vaccine continues to be allotted to Virginia. At this time, nearly 1 million doses of vaccine have been shipped to Virginia or are in transit. The majority of that vaccine is in the private sector, primarily in physician offices, (see the table below detailing the disposition of vaccine to date). The focus continues to be on giving those in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) priority groups the opportunity to be vaccinated first. While school-based clinics have been slowed down by the delays in vaccine manufacturing, they are progressing.

Date: 11/10/09	Preservative-free vaccine	Preservative-containing vaccine	Intranasal vaccine (LAIV)	<b>Total</b>
Public providers	17,680	251,790	139,200	<b>408,670</b>
Private providers	73,370	371,610	109,510	<b>554,490</b>
Other providers	100	24,030	8,190	<b>32,320</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,150</b>	<b>647,430</b>	<b>256,900</b>	<b>995,480</b>

The CDC urges us to follow a three-pronged approach to handling H1N1: 1) vaccination; 2) appropriate use of antiviral medication and 3) everyday health habits. As we move toward Thanksgiving, with the massive re-mixing of Americans as we join together with our families and friends, those of us in the medical community need to remain especially vigilant and prepared for potential increased disease again after the holiday. Please know that VDH is doing our best to promote not only a healthy Thanksgiving, but also continuing health after the holiday. Thanks again for all you do!

Sincerely,



Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP