



Hot Topics in Epidemiology

Excerpts from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Hot Topics
September 23, Vol. 9 (38)



October 2009

<http://mesacountymedicalsociety.org>

CONTENTS:

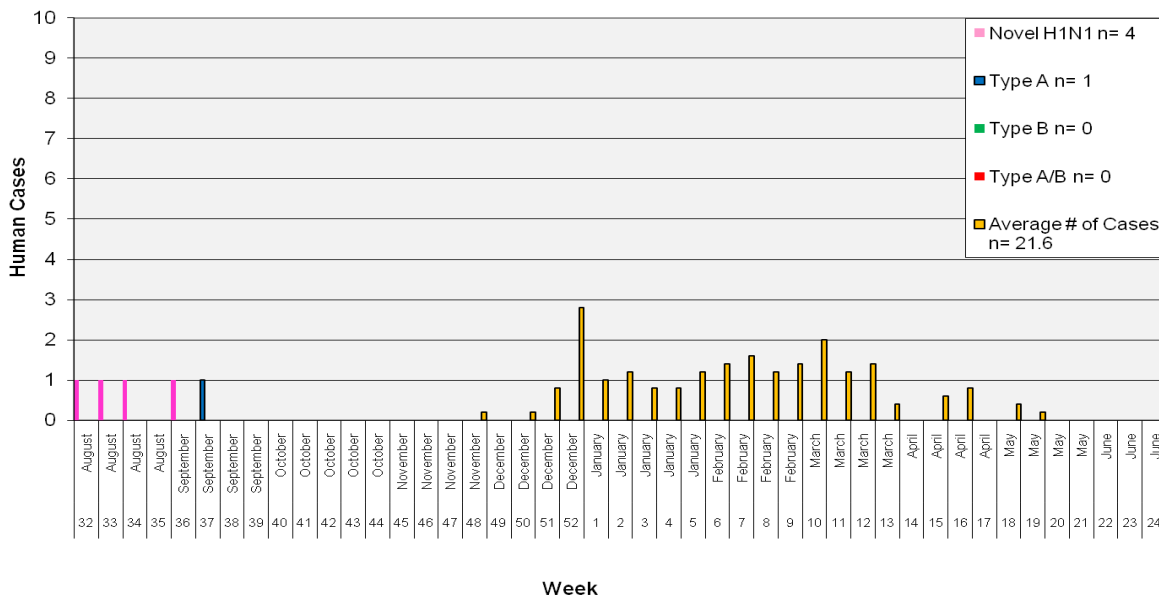
1. Update - Influenza Surveillance
 - Mesa
 - Colorado
 - National
2. Flu Reporting Considerations

1. UPDATE-INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE- MESA, COLORADO AND NATIONAL

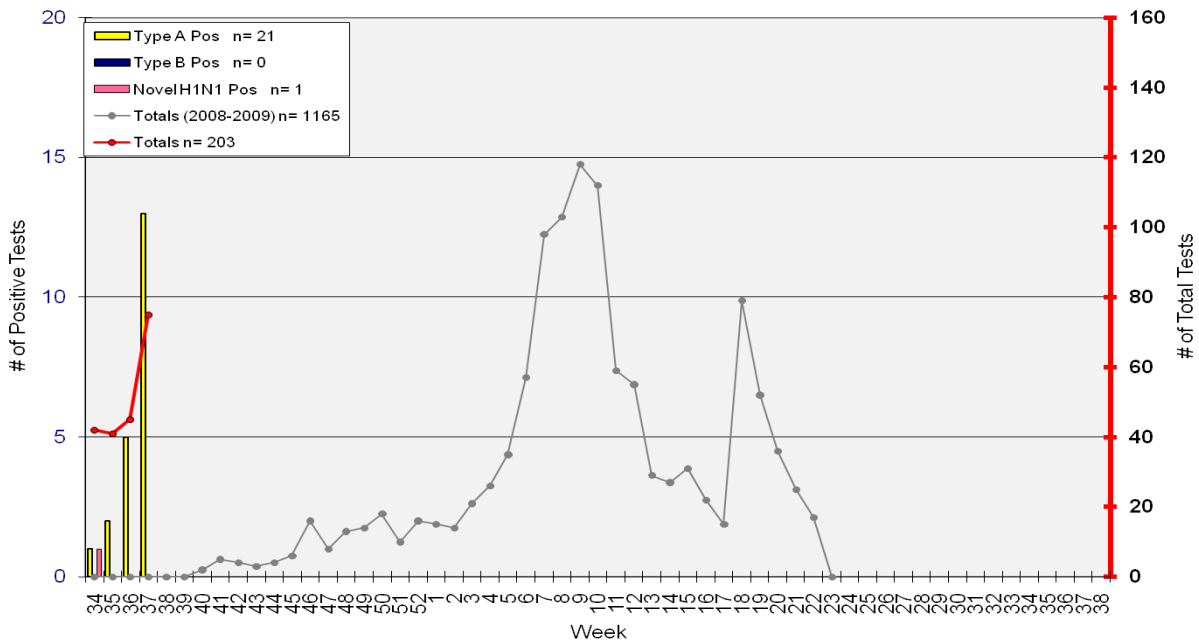
MESA

There are 4 confirmed hospitalized cases of 2009 H1N1 influenza in Mesa County and 1 case pending. Only individuals hospitalized with influenza A are then tested for H1N1. The Mesa County Health Department is doing influenza-like illness surveillance with 12 schools throughout Mesa County as well as two ER's and three Family Practice Offices.

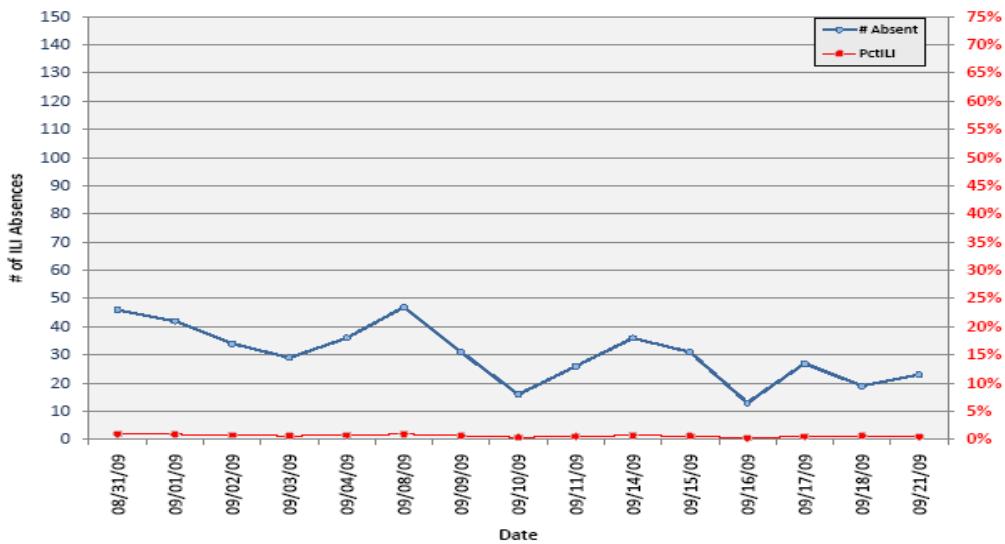
2004-2010 Influenza-associated hospitalizations by week of diagnosis
Mesa County



Mesa County 2009 - 2010 Lab Surveillance for Influenza Testing



Influenza Like Illness Absences for All Schools



COLORADO

For the week ending September 19, influenza activity continued to increase - somewhat steeply as measured by hospitalizations and Kaiser ILI data:

Numbers of influenza-associated hospitalizations (by week of diagnosis) increased sharply from the week ending 8/29 through the week ending 9/12; for the most recent week ending

9/19, numbers are incomplete due to delays in reporting but likely will surpass the previous week; the 76 hospitalizations diagnosed during the week ending 9/12 exceeded the peak weekly number reported during the 2008-09 flu season (65 for the week ending 2/28/09); 93% of the 171 reported hospitalizations since the first week of September have been among persons residing in Front Range counties, and 76% have been among persons residing in Denver metro counties.

Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by Kaiser Permanente for the Denver metro area continued to steeply increase and reached 4.7% for the week ending 9/19; this substantially exceeded the peak Kaiser ILI reached during the 2008-09 flu season (2.2% for the week ending 2/14/09).

The first Colorado school dismissal was reported - a private K-8 school in El Paso County.

Since the first week in September, only two influenza-related deaths (both confirmed H1N1) have been reported; one a young adolescent and the other aged 57 years; both had underlying medical conditions.

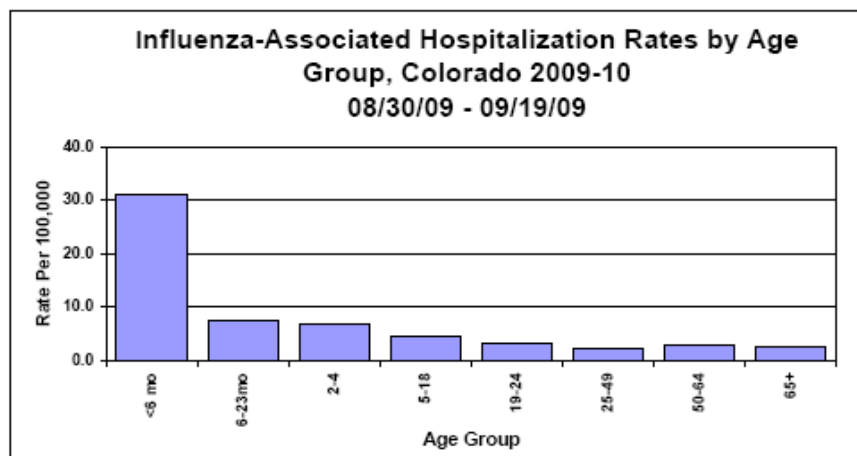
To view the summary graphs and tables, go to:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Influenza/index.html>



**Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations
by Age Group, Colorado 2009-10
08/30/09 - 9/19/09**

Age	No.	%	CO pop dist	Rate per 100,000
<6 mo	11	6.4	35533	31.0
6-23mo	8	4.7	106394	7.5
2-4	15	8.8	216092	6.9
5-18	43	25.1	960783	4.5
19-24	15	8.8	466280	3.2
25-49	40	23.4	1804500	2.2
50-64	27	15.8	928421	2.9
65+	12	7.1	488725	2.5
Total	171	100	5006729	3.4



NATIONAL

For the week ending September 12, influenza activity increased in the U.S.: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was above the national baseline; 7 of 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Twenty-one states reported geographically widespread influenza activity and nine states and Puerto Rico reported regional influenza activity. 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.

To view the complete CDC weekly surveillance report, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

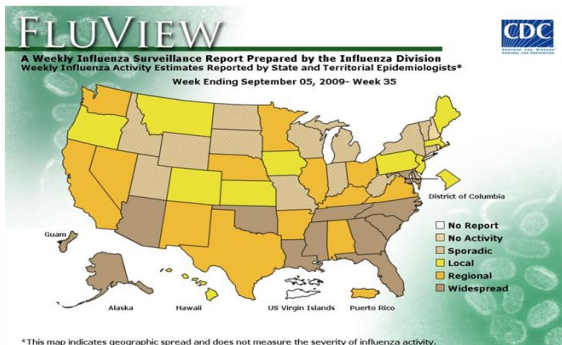
2. FLU REPORTING CONSIDERATIONS

If numbers of influenza hospitalizations begin to exceed hospitals' capacities to continue case-based reporting, there will be a switch to "aggregate reporting" of numbers of admissions for pneumonia or influenza (based on admission diagnosis and not laboratory confirmation) by age group, and of hospital deaths among these cases by age group.

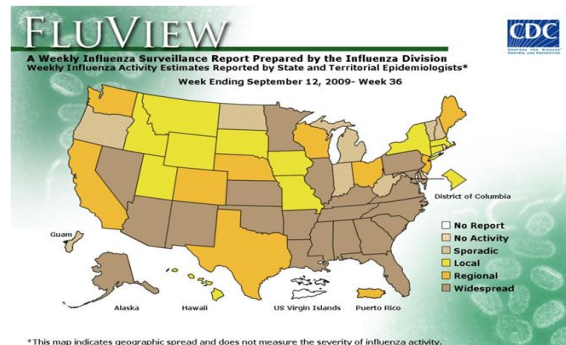
Hospitals might want to plan ahead and have a conversation now with their local health department as to whether any disease reporting assistance could be provided by public health during a more active phase of this influenza pandemic. Of course, the capacities of local health departments will also be stressed under this scenario.

CDC Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

Week 35



Week 36



Please contact the Mesa County Health Department 24/7 Communicable Disease Reporting line with any questions at 254-4120.