



Date: January 19, 2010

General questions: Alissa Bateman-Robbins; desk, 971-673-2296; cell, 503-490-6590; alissa.bateman-robbins@state.or.us

Technical questions:

Weekly influenza update for Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010

Oregon Public Health's Emerging Infections Program (EIP) network released preliminary updated findings on H1N1 activity in Oregon for the time period Sept. 1, 2009 through Jan. 11, 2010. The EIP network reviewed charts from patients hospitalized in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and compiled a report on deaths from lab-confirmed influenza in Oregon. The final report should be released around Feb. 1.

"This information provides a good picture of who is getting hospitalized from the flu, which helps us to determine who is most at risk," says Mel Kohn, MD, MPH, director of Oregon Public Health.

The report, updated Jan. 12, reveals the following hospitalization trends in the tri-county area:

- 82 percent of adults hospitalized with the flu had underlying health conditions, which were most commonly asthma, chronic lung disease and chronic metabolic diseases such as diabetes.
- 57 percent of hospitalized children had underlying health conditions, which were most commonly asthma and conditions resulting in decreased immunity.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Weekly flu update, pg. 2

- There were 33 pregnant women hospitalized for flu, compared with an average of less than one hospitalization among pregnant woman during the last five years. The rate of hospitalization among pregnant women aged 15 to 44 years is 4.4 times the rate of hospitalization among non-pregnant women in that age group.

The mortality figures show:

- Four children in Oregon died of flu-related illness; all of them had a neurological developmental disorder such as cerebral palsy.
- The median age of adult flu death cases in Oregon is 51. Over half (57 percent) of the deaths were male and 84 percent were white.

Nationally, visits to the doctor and hospitalization for the flu are declining, and deaths attributed to flu have decreased and are below what is expected for this time of year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost all influenza viruses identified so far continue to be pandemic H1N1. In Oregon, 1,309 people have been hospitalized from the flu since Sept. 1, 2009; 66 people have died.

For more information, visit www.flu.oregon.gov or call the Oregon Public Health Flu Hotline at 800-978-3040.

###