

NASA HQ Pandemic Update

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- President Barack Obama signed a proclamation declaring the 2009 H1N1 pandemic a national emergency, allowing Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, to waive certain statutory and regulatory requirements for healthcare facilities under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act [42 USC §1320b–5].

H1N1 National Emergency

- This proclamation is aimed at providing the ability to waive legal requirements that could otherwise limit the ability of our nation's health care system to respond to the surge of patients with the 2009-H1N1 influenza virus.

H1N1 National Emergency

- Two conditions must be met for the Secretary to be able to issue such “1135 Waivers: “ first, the Secretary must have declared a Public Health Emergency, and second, the President must have declared a National Emergency either through a Stafford Act Declaration or National Emergencies act Declaration.

H1N1 National Emergency

- Requirements under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), that prohibit hospitals from establishing off-site care facilities and the use of certain rapid triage or sorting activities, could be waived under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act.
- Other requirements related to Medicare, Medicaid or Childrens Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) could also be waived.
- Section 1135 waivers, under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, were granted during several instances like Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008.

H1N1 National Emergency

- Only about 11 million pandemic H1N1 vaccine doses have been made available to the U.S. public. This is approximately ten times less than what the U.S. government had estimated to be available by mid-October.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that as of 10/21, about 14 million doses of the vaccine had been allocated and slightly more than 11 million doses were shipped. California, with about 1.3 million, and Texas, with about 800,000 doses, have so far received the largest H1N1 vaccine shipments.

Canadian Cases by Province / Territory

Confirmed by Public Health Agency of Canada, October 22 PM

Province / Territory	Deaths
Alberta	8
British Columbia	9
Manitoba	7
New Brunswick	0
Newfoundland	0
Northwest Territories	0
Nova Scotia	1
Nunavut	1
Ontario	28
Prince Edward Island	0
Quebec	27
Saskatchewan	5
Yukon	0
Total	86

U.S. Influenza and Pneumonia-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

Reported by the CDC for the period of August 30 – October 17 2009

Cases Defined by	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Influenza and Pneumonia Syndrome*	21,823	2,416
Influenza Laboratory-Tests**	8,204	411
Totals	30,027	2,827

* Reports can be based on syndromic, admission or discharge data, or a combination of data that could include laboratory-confirmed and influenza-like illness hospitalizations

** Laboratory confirmation includes any positive influenza test

The U.S. Federal Government has posted nine "flu essentials" one-pagers on their flu.gov website. The "Know What to Do if You or a Loved One Gets the Flu" section includes advise from doctors and health care professionals at HHS for:

1. People with Asthma
2. People with Diabetes or Who Have a Weakened Immune System
3. Doctors and Other Health Care Providers
4. Emergency Warning Signs
5. Symptoms & Basic Steps
6. Parents and Caregivers of Young Children
7. Pregnant Women
8. Who's at High Risk for Complications?
9. 10 Ways You Can Stay Healthy at Work

World Health Organization Reports

WHO Regions	Cumulative Totals	
	Cases	Deaths
Africa (AFRO)	13,297	75
Americas (AMRO)	160,129	3,539
Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)	14,739	96
Europe (EURO)	Over 63,000	At least 261
South-East Asia (SEARO)	41,513	573
Western Pacific (WPRO)	122,267	455
Grand Total	Over 414,945	At least 4,999

