

# 2009 H1N1 FLU PANDEMIC: Dakota County's Response May 2010



## Public Health Emergency Declared

In April 2009, public health agencies across the United States became aware of the threat posed by a new variant of H1N1 influenza virus. On April 27th the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared a public health emergency.

## Coordinated Multi-Level Response

The CDC set the direction of the national response, including ordering H1N1 vaccine from manufacturers and identifying priority groups most at risk for illness. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) provided additional direction to local public health departments in Minnesota. Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPHD) opened a Department Operations Center to coordinate the response, and worked with many local organizations, including schools, clinics, social service agencies, and first responders.

## H1N1 Vaccination

- Production of H1N1 vaccine was fast-tracked by CDC, but manufacturing problems delayed delivery of the vaccine, creating major logistical challenges.
- Initial vaccination efforts targeted children, caregivers of infants, pregnant women, health care workers, and first responders.
- DCPHD provided vaccinations through four types of clinics and in community organizations.
- As of May 27, 2010, DCPHD provided 12,546 vaccinations.

## Response Activities

- The DCPHD workforce was augmented with assistance from the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency (MVNA).
- A total of 74 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers filled 125 shifts totaling 690 hours.
- The MDH received Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) funding from the CDC to support the response.
- DCPHD issued 59 Health Alerts and redistributed 7,565 doses of vaccine to health care providers in the county.

## Antiviral Distribution

- MDH opened a Flu Line, staffed by nurses who assessed Minnesota residents with flu-like symptoms, and if needed, issued prescriptions for antiviral medication.
- Six pharmacies in the county agreed to be interim dispensing sites for antivirals for people who were uninsured or underinsured.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution

- Supplies were released to Public Health from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- DCPHD opened a Local Distribution Node (LDN) that distributed 11,910 PPE supplies to health providers.

## Impact in Minnesota and Dakota County

- In Minnesota, there have been 1,824 hospitalizations and 72 confirmed deaths attributed to H1N1.
- In Dakota County, there have been 85 hospitalizations and 6 confirmed deaths.

## Ongoing Response

- H1N1 influenza continues to circulate.
- CDC strongly urges young children, people with underlying health conditions or chronic diseases, and those over age 65 to get vaccinated.



*Dakota*  
COUNTY

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