

# H1N1 INFLUENZA BULLETIN

**December 7, 2009**

This bulletin provides updated information regarding H1N1 influenza activity in Connecticut and Danbury, and guidance from local, state and national public health officials. While the facts related to preventive strategies have not changed, there have been significant changes in data available at the state and local levels regarding H1N1 and “influenza-like illness” (ILI) activity.

## Key Facts about H1N1 Disease as of November 9, 2009

- Consistent with what is now being seen across the State of Connecticut, Danbury Public Schools are seeing a decrease in influenza like illness activity.
- Absenteeism rates have stabilized and are consistent with levels expected at this time of the year.
- No change in disease severity has been reported.

## Key Facts about H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

- To obtain information on eligibility and availability of H1N1 vaccine in our area, check the City of Danbury website at [www.ci.danbury.ct.us](http://www.ci.danbury.ct.us) and link to the health department. You may also call 796-1619 for the city’s flu hotline
- You may also check with your healthcare provider for advice and availability of vaccine for your child.
- Four clinics have been held thus far with vaccination of approximately 2500 students.
- An H1N1 clinic has been scheduled by the Danbury VNA for students under 10 who received their first dose at the November 19<sup>th</sup> clinic or before. These students are now eligible for their second dose as it is 21 days after the first dose was administered. The clinic will be held at Roger’s Park Middle School on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm.

## School Interventions

- School and local public health officials continue to collaborate, and to monitor for changes in guidance from the State Department of Public Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
- Schools will stay open unless there is a point at which they are unable to operate due to very high student or staff absenteeism.
- Danbury Public Schools cleaning procedures are in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control related to H1N1 transmission concerns. As a reminder, this virus lives on inanimate objects for 2-8 hours; hence school scrub downs at night are ineffective and unnecessary.

## To reduce the spread of H1N1 in our schools, PLEASE

- **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY ARE NOT FEELING WELL.**
- **Keep your children home if they have signs of illness;** monitor for fever and cough, sore throat.
- If your child has a fever, **keep him or her home for at least 24 hours** after he or she no longer has a fever **without the use of fever-reducing medication.**
- Get your children vaccinated when vaccine becomes available (H1N1, seasonal).
- Consult with your physician in advance if your child has a chronic condition that puts him/her at higher risk for illness with the flu.

**We thank you for your continued support in keeping our students in a safe and healthy learning environment.**