

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES: PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM



H1N1 Overview

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H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Summit
Salem Conference Center
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 **DHS** | Independent. Healthy. Safe.



- What is flu?
- Typical impact of influenza
- What is a flu pandemic?
- What now: addressing the current pandemic

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What is the flu?

Electron Micrograph of
Pandemic H1N1 Flu Virus



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Influenza symptoms

- Respiratory illness;
- Fever, headache;
- Cough, sore throat, and
- Muscle aches.
- Cough and fatigue can last for more than a month

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Transmission

- Incubation period
One to three days.
 - Can be contagious
before symptoms develop.
- DROPLET spread (three feet)
most important.



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Flu virus changes in a minor way each year

- “Antigenic drift”.
- New strains appear each year to which most people are susceptible.
- Need new vaccine each year to match circulating strains.

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Periodically virus has major changes

- “Antigenic shift”.
- Nobody has immunity.
- Causes a widespread epidemic, or pandemic.

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Impact of Influenza in a typical year

- 10-20 percent of population gets influenza each year.
- 225,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths from influenza in U.S. in an average year.
 - 2,750 hospitalizations and 450 deaths in Oregon.
- Most deaths from secondary pneumonia.
 - i.e., bacterial infection of lungs after infection with influenza virus.

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Pandemics: 1918 Spanish flu

- Catastrophe against which all modern pandemics measured.
- 20-40 percent of world's population ill.
- 20 million deaths in world, 500,000 in U.S.
 - Killed more Americans than all wars in 20th century.
 - Quick: felt well in morning, dead by nightfall.
 - Others died from complications.
 - Attack rate and mortality highest among 20-50 year olds.

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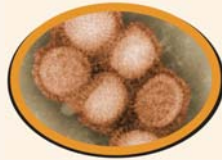
Other flu pandemics and Pandemic Threats

- 1957: Asian flu: 70,000 U.S. deaths.
- 1968: Hong Kong flu: 34,000 U.S. deaths.
- 1976: Swine flu threat.
- 1977: Russian flu threat.
- 1997-9: Avian flu: limited spread.

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What now?

Why worry about pandemic H1N1?



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Pandemic H1N1

- New strain appeared spring 2009 and rapidly spread throughout globe.
 - Younger people especially affected.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a pandemic.
- Everyone is susceptible, so potential for widespread illness this flu season.
- Severity difficult to predict, but could stress healthcare systems, and economic functioning.

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What are our goals?

- Reduce spread of flu.
- Protect vulnerable people from complications.
- Assure availability of treatment for severely ill.
- Minimize social and economic disruption.

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Planning can help prevent or reduce the effects of a flu pandemic

- This morning:
 - Best information available on monitoring the epidemic, medical and non-medical tools.
 - General information needed as background for effective planning.
- This afternoon:
 - More detail on issues in specific sectors, such as schools, hospitals and businesses.

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Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.

- Abraham Lincoln

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