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New Information for Clinicians

To IHA Hospital Preparedness Contacts:

I am forwarding new clinical information from the CDC and AMA. Please forward as appropriate:

[CDC MMWR Bacterial Coinfections in Lung Tissue Specimens from Fatal Cases of 2009 Pandemic Influenza A \(H1N1\)](#) September 29, 2009

To help determine the role of bacterial coinfection during the current influenza pandemic, postmortem lung specimens from patients with fatal 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) were examined. A total of 22 (29%) of 77 U.S. patients with fatal pandemic influenza A (H1N1) had concurrent bacterial lung infections. These findings underscore the importance of pneumococcal vaccination for persons at increased risk for pneumococcal pneumonia and the need for early recognition of bacterial pneumonia in persons with influenza. [Click here to see a copy of the report.](#)

[CDC Interim Recommendations for Clinical use of Influenza Diagnostic Testing During 2009-2010 Influenza Season](#) September 29, 2009

CDC recommends that influenza diagnostic testing be prioritized for 1) hospitalized patients with suspected influenza; 2) patients for whom a diagnosis of influenza will inform decisions regarding clinical care, infection control, or management of close contacts; and 3) patients who died of an acute illness in which influenza was suspected. Most patients with a clinical illness consistent with uncomplicated influenza who reside in an area where influenza viruses are circulating do not require diagnostic influenza testing for clinical management. Clinical judgment is another important factor in making decisions regarding testing. See [Interim Recommendations for Clinical Use of Influenza Diagnostic Testing During the 2009-2010 Influenza Season](#).

[AMA H1N1 Webinar Physicians: Prepare for the 2009 H1N1 Flu](#)

The AMA, in cooperation with CDC and HHS, hosted a webinar on September 22nd providing current 2009 H1N1 influenza virus clinical guidelines and information about the ordering and delivery of vaccine. In addition, the webinar discussed basic epidemiology of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and [recommendations for physicians provided by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

Anthony Fiore, MD, a medical epidemiologist with the CDC, discussed guidance on CDC recommendations for screening and management of cases of the 2009 H1N1 flu. Raymond A. Strikas, MD, of the HHS's National Vaccine Program Office, discussed logistics of vaccine supply and delivery for providers. Litjen Tan, PhD, director of the AMA's medicine and public health department, moderated the session.

Watch the [archived webinar](#) or [click here to view the slides used in the presentation](#).