

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

Enhanced Influenza Surveillance Guidance for US Navy Fleet 14 October 2009

Influenza Reporting

All Navy Medical Department personnel under the administrative control (ADCON) or operational control (OPCON) of Navy units, who diagnose a patient with a **confirmed** case of novel H1N1 influenza, shall report those cases as soon as possible by any means necessary to the Navy's Medical Event Reporting (MER) system as directed by article 2-17 of the Manual of the Medical Department, BUMEDINST 6220.12B, and BUMEDNOTE 6220 (6 May 2009). Note that CHINFO guidance prohibits reporting of novel H1N1 influenza via the US Navy messaging system.

A hospitalized case, suspected or confirmed to have Influenza (regardless of Influenza type) requires an individual MER. All other confirmed, but not serious, cases can be reported via an outbreak MER as an aggregate count in lieu of submitting individual MERs. Shipboard outbreak MERs should contain detailed information on mitigation measures and lessons learned.

See [BUMEDINST 6220.12B](#), NMCPHC's [Medical Event Reporting page](#) or contact the NDRS helpdesk (NDRS@nehc.med.navy.mil, COMM: 757-953-0954, DSN: 377-0954) for additional information on reporting.

A **confirmed case** of novel Influenza A (H1N1) is defined as a person with an influenza-like-illness with laboratory confirmed H1N1 infection by one or more of the following tests:

1. real-time RT-PCR
2. viral culture

Seasonal Influenza and H1N1 Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting

All Navy Medical Department personnel shall submit a VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System) form to the Department of Health and Human Services and NMCPHC for a serious vaccine adverse event or reaction. A copy of the VAERS form shall be forwarded to NMCPHC (attention VAERS FOR Submission - EDC; fax 1-757-953-068) within 7 days of diagnosis as directed by [BUMED INST 6230.15A](#). In the Department of Defense, serious events are defined as those that result in hospitalization or time lost from duty (more than 24 hours), are life threatening, are related to suspect contamination of a vaccine vial, or warrant permanent medical exemption. Serious adverse events are also required to be reported to the Navy's MER system via NDRSi per [BUMEDINST 6220.12B](#).

Adverse events that are deemed life threatening, result in death, or are suspected to be the result of contaminated lots shall be reported telephonically to the VAERS project officer at NMCPHC (757-953-0700) within 24 hours of the occurrence of the event.

Local Surveillance

Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and Senior Medical Department Representative (SMDRs) should:

- Ensure health care providers maintain a high index of suspicion for novel H1N1 infection.
- Maintain awareness of Influenza trends and occurrence of serious influenza infections among local populations in ports of visits.
- Monitor Disease Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) data every day to identify important disease clusters or potential outbreaks where disease prevalence may be significantly higher than expected for this time of year. New DNBI templates containing an Influenza-like-Illness (ILI) category should be used and can be downloaded from NMCPHC's [DNBI Surveillance webpage](#). Respiratory illness rates or ILI rates exceeding 3% of the crew are always unusual, and such instances should be investigated and reported. Any serious (requiring hospitalization) suspect influenza case is also unusual. Refer to NMCPHC's [DNBI Reporting and Investigation Guide](#) for guidance on surveillance, reporting and subsequent investigation procedures.
- Seek assistance from your ISIC and NEPMU to ensure a proper contact investigation is conducted of all influenza outbreaks and serious (hospitalized) influenza infections.

Regional Surveillance

Numbered Fleet Surgeons and TYCOM Surgeons should:

- Ensure influenza reporting, vaccine adverse events reporting, and local surveillance activities follow the guidance outlined above including use of the new DNBI templates with an ILI category.
- Monitor, via NDRSi, confirmed cases of novel H1N1 infection and suspected or confirmed serious Influenza infections that have been reported by your units to the Navy's medical event reporting system. Further information about access to NDRSi can be found on NMCPHC's [Medical Event Reporting page](#) or by contacting the NDRS helpdesk at NDRS@nehc.med.navy.mil or 757-953-0954.
- Ensure known outbreaks are reported in NDRSi as directed by BUMEDINST 6220.12B.

Additional Resources and Information

- Ongoing surveillance guidance updates as well as links to medical response information and outbreak investigation information can be found on NMCPHC's [Influenza page](#).
- If you have limited internet access and cannot regularly check the webpage for updates, please send an email to the NDRS helpdesk (NDRS@nehc.med.navy.mil) in order to be added to a distribution list when updates are posted.
- If you have questions, feel free to contact us at NMCPHCPTS-PREVMED@med.navy.mil.