

Influenza Update: 11.10.2011

DCHD has received its first report of PCR-confirmed influenza A in a Douglas County resident who recently traveled to a Central American country with influenza activity. The adult male, who was not hospitalized and had not received an influenza vaccination this year, was treated with oseltamivir and is recovering.

Locally, none of our surveillance systems indicate influenza activity and influenza activity is minimal throughout the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has tested 1,804 specimens, with only 17 positive (16 A, 1 B). These few viruses have remained susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Recommendations from the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) are not substantially different from last year. CDC continues to recommend that all persons aged 6 months and older be routinely vaccinated and that the protection of persons at higher risk for influenza-related complications be the focus of vaccination efforts.

If you have any questions about influenza surveillance in Douglas County, feel free to call the DCHD Epidemiology Section at 402.444.7214.

For more information:

Nebraska: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/flu/>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm>; <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/>

If you have not yet been immunized, please do so as soon as possible. Immunizations are available by appointment at the Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness Center, 2602 "J" Street, Omaha, NE 68107. Make your appointment today by calling: 402.733.3612