

# Microbe Monthly

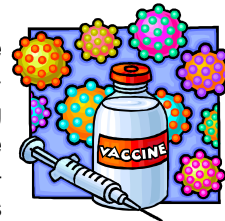
Communicable Disease Report

December 2009

El Paso County Department  
of Health & Environment

## H1N1 Vaccine Safety

The CDC recently released a report on safety of Influenza A monovalent vaccine. Analysis used the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and Vaccine Safety Datalink Project (VSD). Healthcare providers and vaccine manufacturers should report possible adverse events to VAERS, although reports can come from other sources including patients. VAERS reports are preliminary and do not allow conclusions to be drawn between vaccination and adverse events. VSD is a collaboration between CDC and eight managed care organizations whereby electronic medical records are reviewed to collect information of vaccinations and healthcare encounters to monitor vaccine safety. VSD is used to test and strengthen hypotheses of possible adverse event associations generated by VAERS reports.



VAERS database was searched for adverse events reported after either H1N1 vaccination or 2009-2010 seasonal influenza vaccination. VAERS reports were coded as either fatal or nonfatal serious adverse events (defined as death, life-threatening illness, hospitalization, significant disability or congenital anomaly), or as nonserious. **Thus far, the vast majority (95%) of adverse events reported were nonserious. Additionally, no new or unusual events or patterns of adverse events have emerged.** The percent of serious adverse events among all adverse events reported after receipt of seasonal influenza vaccine was slightly higher (6.1%) than for H1N1 vaccine (5.4%). During Oct. 5-Nov. 20, the rate of adverse events reported was 82 per 1 million doses of H1N1 vaccine and 47 per 1 million doses of seasonal flu vaccine. The VAERS received 13 reports of deaths following H1N1 vaccination; 9 persons who died had significant underlying illnesses, one death resulted from a motor vehicle crash, and three are pending review. VAERS received 10 reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and two additional possible cases, all of which are under further review. The remaining non-fatal adverse events reported were for other neurologic conditions, pneumonia, influenza-like illness, respiratory symptoms, allergic conditions, pregnancy complications, gastrointestinal conditions, cardiovascular conditions, and psychiatric responses.

As of Nov. 21, 438,376 H1N1 vaccine doses had been administered to VSD patients. During Oct. 1 – Nov. 21, no cases of GBS and one case of anaphylaxis were observed in those patients. In addition, VSD has detected no increase in rates for other monitored conditions. To view the full report, go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5848a4.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5848a4.htm).

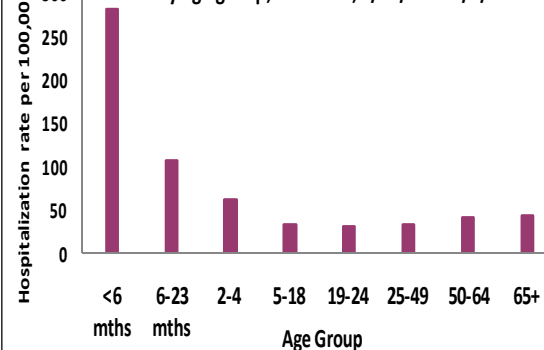
## El Paso County Disease Trends

For the month of November 2009, 85 communicable disease cases were reported and investigated: Campylobacter (2), cryptosporidiosis (1), encephalitis (1), Giardia (2), influenza-related hospitalizations (58), influenza-pediatric death (1), invasive pneumococcal disease (3), pertussis (5), Salmonella (3), Varicella (4) and viral meningitis (5).

During November CD Program staff also investigated 1 outbreak (pertussis in a school), and received 11 GI illness complaints, possibly food borne.

Influenza activity continues to decline in El Paso County and statewide. The rate of hospitalizations has been greatest in the under-6-month age group (see graph). A total of 56 deaths (9 pediatric and 47 adult) have been reported in Colorado. State laboratory virologic surveillance continues to show that virtually all influenza viruses currently circulating in Colorado are 2009 H1N1 virus.

Influenza-associated hospitalization rates by age group, Colorado, 8/30/09 - 12/5/09



## Hot Topics—State and National

**Salmonella Typhimurium infections associated with water frogs:** State and federal public health officials are investigating a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections due to contact with water frogs. Water frogs commonly live in aquariums or fish tanks. Forty-eight individuals infected with the outbreak strain have been reported from 25 states and 2 have been identified in Colorado. No deaths have been reported. Analysis shows that contact with water frogs is a likely source of the infections. Samples taken from aquariums containing aquatic frogs in 3 homes of ill persons have yielded isolates matching the outbreak strain. Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching any amphibian or reptile, their housing, or anything that comes in contact with them or their housing. To view the report go to: [www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typh1209/](http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typh1209/)

## Contact Information

### CD/TB Program

Weekday Hours (M-Th)\* 719-578-3220

After-Hours Emergency 719-385-9622

**Immunizations** 719-578-3272

**Environmental Health** 719-575-8636

\*Note: Health Department regular hours are Monday—Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Weekday Hours (M-F) 303-692-2700

After-Hours 303-370-9395