

# HEALTHCARE FACILITY SURGE / TRIAGE



Ruth Leslie

Deputy Director, Division of Certification and  
Surveillance

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# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- Planning Assumptions:
  - H1N1 will return in the fall
  - Seasonal flu will also emerge
  - Hospital ED's will be surged
    - Private practices may/will refer patients to hospital ED's
    - Recession is causing more uninsured- seek care in the ED
    - School closures may 'trigger' worried well reactions
    - Normal day to day emergencies will still exist

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- Department Planning
  - 2 potential scenarios for planning purposes
    - Moderate presentation (mild illness) H1N1 novel influenza
    - Severe presentation (more virulent ) H1N1 novel influenza

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- What did we see and learn in Spring 2009?
  - Surges in emergency departments
  - Pediatric and young adult cases were typical
  - Inpatient admissions were not surged
  - Hospitals did not activate ICS in general
  - Requests from hospitals for City and State volunteer activation
  - Requests to the SDOH for EMTALA waiver from CMS

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES CHALLENGES

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## □ Moderate Scenario

- Similar to Spring 2009
- Emergency Departments will be overwhelmed
- Inpatient status will not be greatly impacted
- Public will respond to school closures, news articles, deaths
- Mild influenza like illness cases will present
- Worried well will present

# HEALTHCARE FACILITY CHALLENGES

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## □ Severe Scenario

- Emergency Department will surge
- Increased pediatric H1N1 cases will present
- Seasonal Influenza cases (older age group) will also present
- Increased inpatient admissions
  - Pediatric
  - Adult
  - Critical Care
  - Monitored Beds
  - Increased Mortality

# HEALTHCARE FACILITY CHALLENGES

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- Severe Scenario (cont'd)
  - Early hospital discharges
    - Home Care Surge
    - Long Term Care Surge
  - Decreasing or eliminating non-urgent elective surgery
  - Use of non-traditional patient care spaces
  - Staffing challenges
  - Supplies/equipment

# HEALTHCARE FACILITY CHALLENGES

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- ❑ Surges to already overcrowded Emergency departments
- ❑ Space issues- where to put everyone
- ❑ Waits in ED will increase
- ❑ Triageing flu related patients vs emergency cases will become more demanding
- ❑ Staffing for increased surges becomes a challenge
- ❑ Sustaining operations over a prolonged period of time is difficult

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- Department Activity:
  - Develop 'triggers' for hospitals to utilize when H1N1 returns
  - Triggers will be hospital, long term care and home care specific
  - They will be used in planning as well as response phases.
    - Planning when H1N1 is not in immediate community
    - Response when it begins to impact facility or service

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES PLANNING

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- Examples of triggers when H1N1 re-emerges and begins to surge:
  - Establish an H1N1 planning and response committee
  - Activate hospital ICS
  - Place signs outside of ED directing non-ill to information sites
  - Establish a screener outside the ED to direct ILI cases to a separate area the hospital establishes to treat those patients
  - If space in the ED is an issue consider a designated area to hold surge:
    - Tents
    - Cohort waiting areas
    - Mobile Vans

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- Department Activity cont'd
  - Review regulations that may impede response
    - Privileging changes to support surge areas
    - 1 year nurse experience before working in ED
    - 8 hour ED rule
  - Provide training to providers on HPN/HERDS
  - Provide constant line of communications for facilities
    - Regularly scheduled Webinars/ conf calls
    - Q & A mail log to address questions
    - Bi-directional information sharing
    - Dashboard of pertinent information for facilities

# HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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- Department Activities cont'd:
  - Test the Volunteer System
  - Evaluate Regional surge plans
  - Monitor HERDS critical assets
  - Regional conferences
  - Collaborate with local health officials, State education, associations and facilities
  - Monitor influenza activities to deliver accurate situational awareness reports for facilities to 'pull the triggers'

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QUESTIONS?

[rw101@health.state.ny.us](mailto:rw101@health.state.ny.us)

518-402-1003