



Public Health
Cortland County Health Department

The H1N1 Experience

Cortland County
Health Department's Perspective

*Catherine Feuerherm
Public Health Director*

Just Another Friday Night!

April 24

- CDC and NYSDOH announce that H1N1 has been diagnosed in patients in California, Texas, and Mexico.
- Hospitals/health care providers should enhance surveillance related to respiratory illness.
- Healthcare workers should use respiratory precautions when treating patients with acute respiratory illness.
- Local hospital unaware of alert on HPN.

Weekend Surveillance

Saturday April 25

- NYC has identified a cluster of respiratory illness that could be H1N.

Sunday April 26

- Patient presents at Cortland Regional Medical Center with acute respiratory illness. Fits the CDC case definition for H1N1. Testing conducted in consultation with NYSDOH.

Incident Command System

Monday April 27

- CCHD activated ICS
 - Press releases
 - Increased surveillance schools/ medical offices
 - Contact tracing
 - Epi follow up SDOH
 - Phone bank set up for public calls
 - Readiness planning - inventory
- SDOH releases first advisory

From Testing to Confirmation....

- Suspect-probable-confirmed
- Isolation vs quarantine
- Crossing county borders

Accreditation

- Quality
- Accountability
- Credibility
- Consistency

Consistency

- Informational messages
- Practices
- Decisions

Credibility

- Say something!!
- Use the "right" person based on qualifications and expertise
- Build on relationships with community agencies
- Follow up

Quality

- Qualified personnel
- Planning/drilling
- Measurable outcomes

Accountability

- For: decisions, actions, plans
- To: individuals, stakeholders, community

No Laughing Matter.....



"To think that we completely ignored his symptoms, and just nicknamed him 'sneezy'."
