

News and Current Events :: CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months

CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2009/11/19 18:47

CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months

WASHINGTON — Swine flu has sickened about 22 million Americans since April and killed nearly 4,000, including 540 children, say startling federal estimates released Thursday.

The figures — a quadrupling of previous death estimates — don't mean swine flu suddenly has worsened, and most cases still don't require a doctor's care. Instead, the numbers are a long-awaited better attempt to quantify the new flu's true toll.

"I am expecting all of these numbers, unfortunately, to continue to rise," said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We have a long flu season ahead of us."

And tight supplies of vaccine to combat the illness continue: Not quite 42 million doses are currently available, a few million less than CDC had predicted last week. ...

read more: www.google.com

Re: CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months - posted by nearthecross, on: 2009/11/19 19:10

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/11/12/h1n1-vaccine-costs.html#socialcomments>

H1N1 a 'dud' pandemic, Ont. health official says

The huge investments governments made in swine flu pandemic planning might not have been justified, an Ontario health official said Thursday.

"It's really not causing — and is not going to cause and nowhere has caused — significant levels of illness or death," said Dr. Richard Schabas, Ontario's former chief medical officer of health.

"But governments moved ahead regardless. They ramped up their response, spent a huge amount of money on vaccines and other things. I'm not sure the \$1.5 billion includes the cost of new ventilators, the cost of Tamiflu stockpiles ... the huge investment that's been put into planning for what has ultimately turned out to be, from a pandemic perspective, a dud."

Schabas is now the chief medical officer of health for Hastings and Prince Edward counties in eastern Ontario.

On Thursday, The Globe and Mail reported that Canada has so far spent \$1.5 billion on the H1N1 vaccination campaign, twice as much as health officials had predicted. The H1N1 vaccine targets the strain of H1N1 influenza A virus causing the current swine flu pandemic.

Originally, it was estimated a single dose of the vaccine would cost \$16. That cost has now risen to \$30. The increasing cost is attributed in part to an unexpected surge in demand late last month.

By the time the immunization campaign is complete, the cost could exceed \$2 billion.

In another development, an EKOS poll conducted exclusively for CBC News suggests more than half of Canadians surveyed believe concerns over the risk of H1N1 are exaggerated.

Of those polled, 53 per cent said the level of concern about swine flu is exaggerated, considering the real risks involved with the virus. Thirty-seven per cent said the concern was consistent with the level of risk, and 10 per cent said the level of risk was understated.

The survey of 3,502 people was conducted by telephone between Nov. 4 and Nov. 10, 2009, and has an error margin of plus or minus 1.7 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Both landline and cellphone users were included.

Re: CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months - posted by nearthecross, on: 2009/11/19 20:15

Swine Flu Cases Overestimated?

(CBS) If you've been diagnosed "probable" or "presumed" 2009 H1N1 or "swine flu" in recent months, you may be surprised to know this: odds are you didn't have H1N1 flu.

In fact, you probably didn't have flu at all. That's according to state-by-state test results obtained in a three-month-long CBS News investigation.

The ramifications of this finding are important. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Britain's National Health Service, once you have H1N1 flu, you're immune from future outbreaks of the same virus. Those who think they've had H1N1 flu -- but haven't -- might mistakenly presume they're immune. As a result, they might skip taking a vaccine that could help them, and expose themselves to others with H1N1 flu under the mistaken belief they won't catch it. Parents might not keep sick children home from school, mistakenly believing they've already had H1N1 flu.

Why the uncertainty about who has and who hasn't had H1N1 flu?

In late July, the CDC abruptly advised states to stop testing for H1N1 flu, and stopped counting individual cases. The rationale given for the CDC guidance to forego testing and tracking individual cases was: why waste resources testing for H1N1 flu when the government has already confirmed there's an epidemic?

Some public health officials privately disagreed with the decision to stop testing and counting, telling CBS News that continued tracking of this new and possibly changing virus was important because H1N1 has a different epidemiology, affects younger people more than seasonal flu and has been shown to have a higher case fatality rate than other flu virus strains.

CBS News learned that the decision to stop counting H1N1 flu cases was made so hastily that states weren't given the opportunity to provide input. Instead, on July 24, the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists, CSTE, issued the following notice to state public health officials on behalf of the CDC...

Continue reading here:

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/10/21/cbsnews_investigates/main5404829.shtml?tag=cbsnewsLeadStoriesArea

Re: , on: 2009/11/19 21:44

Quote:
-----"It's really not causing a significant level of illness or death," said Dr. Richard Schabas, Ontario's former chief medical officer of health.

It's understandable that the cases are low in Canada seeing that the problem is rampant south of the American border in Mexico. But that doesn't mean that it can't take off here. However, it's a good thing to take the precautionary measures so that the death count will be low. Also too, the vaccine will deal with strains that might shoot off this virus.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2009/11/19 22:15

Hi nearthecross...

I just wanted to point out that the article that you quoted is about a month old. The current estimate is up-to-date.

Re: CDC: Swine flu has sickened 22 million in 6 months - posted by PassingThru, on: 2009/11/20 7:59

Quote:
-----And tight supplies of vaccine to combat the illness continue: Not quite 42 million doses are currently available, a few million less than CDC had predicted last week. ...

True statistics on the damage caused by the vaccine would interesting...

PassingThru

Re: - posted by hmmm (), on: 2009/11/20 8:51

Quote:

PassingThru wrote:

Quote:
-----And tight supplies of vaccine to combat the illness continue: Not quite 42 million doses are currently available, a few million less than CDC had predicted last week. ...

True statistics on the damage caused by the vaccine would interesting...

PassingThru

last week swedens statistics was deaths from swineflu 8 people

and deaths from the vaccine 8 people

also many many other reactions that did not result in death. Amount of children with serious reaction to the vaccine was 30 something. Although some of the ingredients could cause some reaction long time after one takes the vaccine.

Probably the statistics are the same everywhere