

Testing for the Pandemic H1N1 Flu Virus

In 2009, the H1N1 influenza A virus emerged as the first influenza pandemic in forty years. As the leading diagnostic testing company in the U.S. – and the only provider of two commercial tests authorized by the FDA for emergency use* – Quest Diagnostics is uniquely positioned to provide insights into the behavior of this new pandemic virus and its impact on Americans.

In this Quest Diagnostics Health Trends™ Report, we summarize analyses of de-identified data from our four laboratories that perform our first H1N1 flu test to receive FDA emergency use authorization (EUA). (FDA issued an EUA for our second H1N1 test on October 16; the test is not currently used in our labs.) This test, which we launched on May 11, 2009, reports whether a patient specimen is positive for influenza A and/or the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus subtype.

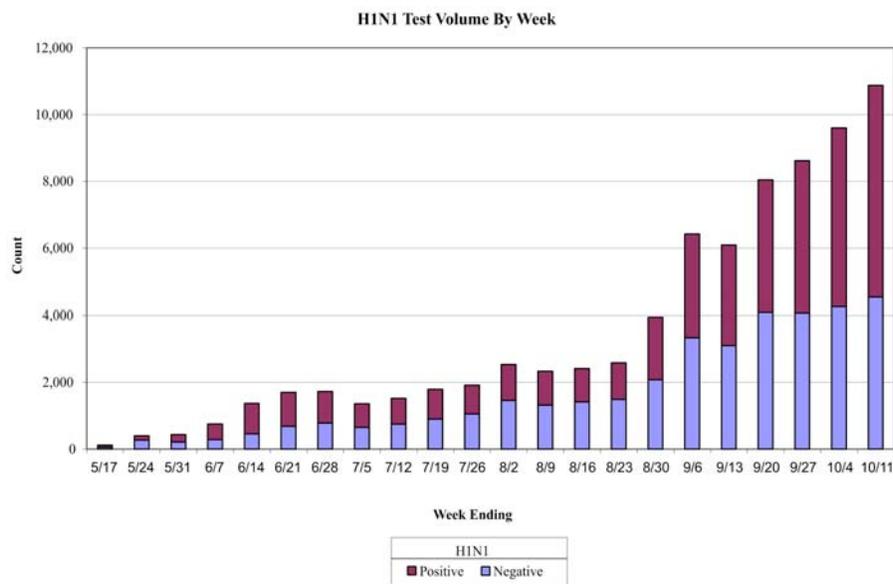
The CDC has received EUAs for its H1N1 flu tests, which are used in public health laboratories to confirm H1N1 diagnoses in high-risk patients. The CDC reports on influenza testing based on public health lab reporting. Our analysis supplements the CDC's findings at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

The graphics that follow are based on 100 percent of our testing volume up until the week ending Sunday, October 4, and 95 percent of our testing volume up until the week ending Sunday, October 11, 2009. Please note weeks ending July 5 and September 13 include one holiday/nontesting day.

**This test has not been FDA cleared or approved. This test has been authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization. This test is only authorized for the duration of the declaration of emergency under section 564(b)(1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1). The declaration of emergency will expire on April 26, 2010, unless it is terminated or revoked sooner or renewed.*

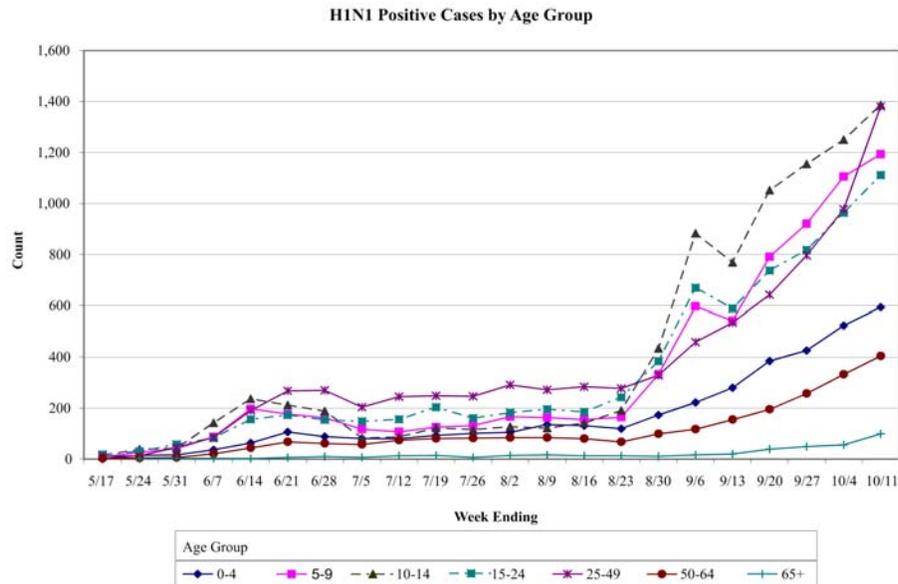
Test Volume Demonstrates Persistence of 2009 H1N1 Virus

Our test reports if a specimen is H1N1 and/or influenza A positive or negative. Using this test, we have tested more than 76,500 specimens for H1N1 between May 11 and October 11, 2009. Of these specimens, more than 39,300 -- approximately 51 percent -- have tested positive for H1N1. About 99 percent of positive influenza A specimens also tested positive for H1N1 -- demonstrating that the pandemic virus continues to be the predominant circulating influenza A strain.



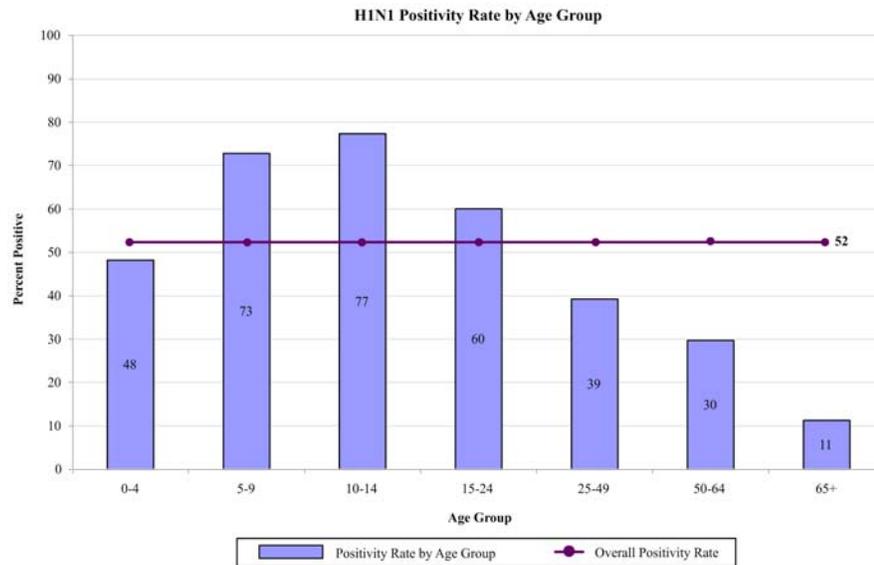
Infection Among Children May Now be Spreading to Adults

As school resumed across the nation in late August and early September, children ages 10 to 14 experienced a sharp increase in positive H1N1 results. Yet, since the beginning of October, positive cases among adults and pre-school age children have gained ground on school-age kids. While it is not entirely clear if these trends are due to greater rates of testing or infection, they are consistent with the spread of influenza in communities.



Positivity Rates are Consistently Higher in Children than Adults

Based on tests performed since Quest Diagnostics began offering H1N1 testing in May 2009, children between the ages of five to 14 have experienced higher overall rates of H1N1 positivity than any other age group. Notably, unlike the case with seasonal influenza, the pandemic virus to date has shown low rates of positivity in adults age 50 and older. As the second graphic on page 1 shows, however, these rates may change if positive cases among older Americans continue to increase.



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Acute Testing Demand in Texas and California

We assessed U.S. states where H1N1 appears to be unusually active. Texas is reporting the largest number of H1N1 positive results, followed by California and Florida. However, Arizona, Ohio and other states have recently begun to experience dramatic increases in volume.

Top 10 States -- Highest Number of Positive H1N1 Cases (from Aug. 31 to Oct. 11, 2009)

State	Total Positive H1N1 (8/31-10/11)
TX	7,049
CA	5,635
FL	4,277
GA	1,558
PA	994
NV	976
TN	653
AZ	596
KY	579
OH	522

Top 10 States -- Highest Increase in Positive H1N1 Cases in Recent Weeks

State	Number of Positive H1N1 as of two weeks ending Sept. 27	Number of Positive H1N1 as of two weeks ending Oct. 11	% Increase
AZ	64	374	484
OH	83	273	229
VA	32	105	228
MD	71	227	220
NV	192	569	196
IL	42	121	188
KS	13	37	185
IN	25	62	148
CT	11	27	145
PA	210	511	143

