

Commissioner Auerbach and DPH Medical Director, Lauren Smith, MD, appeared on a special addition of Hopkinton Community Television's "Physician Focus" entitled "The Flu: What You Should Know." The Commissioner and Dr. Smith joined Erin Tracy, M.D., an obstetrician-gynecologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to discuss important flu related topics including the difference between H1N1 (swine) flu and seasonal flu, vaccine safety and supply, how to protect against infections, and what to do if you get sick. "Physician Focus" is the Massachusetts Medical Society's monthly educational program. The program is available for viewing online at <http://www.hcam.tv/series/physicianfocus/flu/index.shtml>.

As of November 19, 2009, 1768 confirmed cases of H1N1 have been reported throughout Massachusetts since April of 2009. Although ILI activity seems to have peaked and is on a decline, activity is still at a level that is significantly higher than what was seen at the same time during the last two years.