

Health **FAX**

H1N1 Influenza A: Update # 5 Information for Primary Care Practitioners

Attention: **Physicians, Emergency Departments, Walk- In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners**

Date: June 5, 2009

Updated Information: As of June 5, 2009 there are 969 laboratory confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario. Of these cases, 54 have a travel history to Mexico. Of the remaining 915 cases, 525 acquired the H1N1 flu virus in Ontario, 11 had a travel history to another affected region and 379 cases continue to be investigated. Presently there are 13 confirmed cases in the Simcoe Muskoka area. Nearly all H1N1 cases in Ontario are considered mild. There have been few hospitalized cases most of whom have recovered and have been discharged.

Direction on Lab Testing: The significant amount of lab testing conducted to date has shown that the 2009 novel H1N1 influenza A virus is the predominant circulating strain of influenza in many communities at this time.

New Information

Health care providers in ambulatory care settings and emergency departments should therefore **only** submit laboratory specimens in cases where lab results are required for clinical management of hospitalized cases of influenza like illness (ILI) or where patients are at high risk for complications from influenza (e.g., immunocompromised, pregnant, persons under the age of 2 years and over 65 years of age).

Note - Laboratory testing is **not** recommended to determine if treatment with antivirals is indicated. **Treatment decisions should be based on clinical features only.**

The following Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care guidance documents have been revised to reflect these recommendations. A copy of each of these documents is provided with this fax:

- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/ihn_emerg_guidelines_20090603.pdf
- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/ihn_ambul_guidelines_20090603.pdf

Useful Resources

MOHLTC Information for Health Care Professionals: Important Health Notices
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html>

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control: Interim Options for Clinicians Considering Influenza Antivirals
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/ihn_042309_bccdc.pdf

Have questions?

There are 2 avenues for your questions.

1. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has created a toll free hotline **1-866-212-2272** for healthcare providers who have any questions regarding the provincial Important Health Notices.
2. You can also ask us your questions through our CD Team at 1-877-721-7520 ext 8809.