

Health **FAX**

First Lab-Confirmed Influenza Case in the Simcoe Muskoka Area

Attention: **Physicians, Long-Term Care Homes, Rest and Retirement Homes, Emergency Departments, Nurse Practitioners, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Neighbouring Health Units**

Date: November 25, 2011

Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie has reported Simcoe Muskoka area's first lab confirmed Influenza A/H3 case for the 2011-12 season, in a non-immunized pregnant female residing in the Barrie area. This case was seen at Royal Victoria Hospital on November 21, 2011 and the diagnosis was confirmed positive on November 24, 2011 by rRT-PCR. There have been no outbreaks of influenza yet in Simcoe Muskoka this influenza season. The following is an update of the influenza activity in Ontario and Canada:

Ontario

- Three cases of influenza A/H3 have been reported as of November 12, 2011 from three different health units: Ottawa, Toronto, and Thunder Bay. There has been one preliminary report of influenza B from Toronto.
- No lab-confirmed influenza outbreaks have been reported in Ontario as of November 12, 2011.

Canada

- Forty two cases of influenza A (26 are H3, 14 are not subtyped and 2 are H1N1 pdm09 which was formerly known as pH1N1) and 11 influenza B cases have been reported in Canada between September 1, 2011 and November 12, 2011. These cases have occurred in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.
- Since the start of the season, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized seven influenza viruses (four A/H3N2 and three B).
 - All four A/H3N2 viruses (from British Columbia & Ontario) are antigenically related to A/Perth/16/2009, which is included in the 2011-2012 vaccine.

- One of the influenza B viruses characterized is antigenically related to the vaccine strain B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage). The other two influenza B viruses (from British Columbia) are antigenically related to the reference virus B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like, which belongs to the Yamagata lineage.
- Since the beginning of the season, NML has tested six influenza viruses (three A/H3N2 and three B) for resistance to oseltamivir and to zanamivir and it was found that all six viruses were susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir. Five A/H3N2 viruses were tested for amantadine resistance and all five were found to be resistant.

Influenza vaccine is available as part of Ontario's universal influenza immunization program (UIIP) and can be ordered from health unit offices. **Immunization is the best strategy to prevent influenza illness and transmission in your patients, their families, and amongst health care providers.**

All lab-confirmed influenza cases and institutional respiratory outbreaks are reportable to public health to ensure timely follow-up. For additional information or to report influenza cases and respiratory outbreaks please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Communicable Disease Team at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809.

Additional Information on Influenza

1. Public Health Agency of Canada, Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
2. NACI Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2011-2012 season can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/11vol37/acs-dcc-5/index-eng.php>
3. Public Health Ontario now issues the Ontario Influenza Bulletin which can be accessed at:
<http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>