

Health **FAX**

First Lab-Confirmed Influenza Case in the Simcoe Muskoka Area

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

Date: November 21, 2012

Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Orillia has reported Simcoe Muskoka area's first locally-acquired lab confirmed Influenza A case for the 2012-13 season, in an unvaccinated adult. The client was seen at Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital on November 12, 2012 and the diagnosis was confirmed positive on November 16, 2012 by Rapid Respiratory Virus culture. 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

- There have been 90 lab-confirmed flu cases from September 1 – November 10, 2012. 85 (94%) are flu A and five are flu B. Among the flu A, 56 (66%) are H3, Five (6%) are H1N1pdm09 and the rest are not subtyped.
- **There have been 11 lab-confirmed influenza A institutional outbreaks reported in Ontario as of November 10, 2012.**

Canada

- There have been 379 lab-confirmed cases from August 26 – November 10, 2012. 349 (92%) are flu A and 30 are flu B. Among the flu A, 225 (64%) are H3, 20 (6%) are H1N1pdm09 and the rest are not subtyped.

Based on the small number of samples sent to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) for strain characterization, all nine have been a strain match to those contained in this year's vaccine: Seven were influenza A/Victoria/361/2011(H3N2)-like virus and two were influenza B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like virus.

From the small number of samples sent to the NML for susceptibility testing, all flu A samples are resistant to amantadine, and all flu A and flu B samples are susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir.

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 2012-2013 season can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/12vol38/acs-dcc-4/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>