

## Tamiflu Availability in Simcoe Muskoka

**Attention:** Pharmacies

**Date:** January 8, 2015

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On January 5, 2015, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) released a HealthFAX titled "Widespread and Peak Influenza Activity in Simcoe Muskoka" which identified a shortage of Tamiflu in some areas of Simcoe Muskoka. Many pharmacies have called into our offices requesting to access the provincial stockpile. **At this time, access to the provincial stockpile is limited to institutions in a confirmed influenza outbreak.** The coordination of accessing the stockpile is through SMDHU, the outbreak facility and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). If staff who are working in an outbreak facility present to your pharmacy for Tamiflu and you are currently out of stock, please direct them to their institutions outbreak coordinator who will then liaise with the SMDHU outbreak coordinator.

**Tamiflu is available directly from the manufacturer if your normal distribution channels are unable to fill your orders.** Orders can be placed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling Roche Customer Service at 1-800-268-0440. It was identified to SMDHU that orders would be filled and couriered to pharmacies usually within a 24 hour period. For those eligible under a retail trade program, any non-sold expired Tamiflu could be returned for a credit from Roche. We encourage pharmacies to use this option in the event you are unable to stock or fill Tamiflu adequately.

If you have questions, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Communicable Disease Team at 705-721-7520 x8809 (8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.).