

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 19, 2013

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie has reported Simcoe Muskoka area's first locally-acquired lab confirmed Influenza case (Influenza B) for the 2013-14 season, in an unvaccinated child. The patient was seen on November 13, 2013 and the diagnosis was confirmed positive on November 18, 2013 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 45 lab-confirmed flu cases from August 25, 2013 – November 9, 2013. 38 (94%) are flu A and seven are flu B. Among the flu A, 12 (31.5%) are H1N1pdm09, 18 (47.3%) are H3 and the rest are not subtyped.
- There has been one lab-confirmed influenza A institutional outbreak reported in Ontario as of November 9, 2013.

Canada

- There have been 125 lab-confirmed cases from August 25, 2013 – November 9, 2013. 100 (80%) are flu A and 25 are flu B. Among the flu A, 41 (41%) are H3, 28 (28%) 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, eight out of nine have been a strain match to those contained in this year's vaccine. Across Ontario and Canada all samples of Influenza A are matches to the vaccine. Four out of five samples of Influenza B are a match to the vaccine. One Influenza B sample did not match the vaccine and was located in Ontario.

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. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Influenza information can be accessed at:
<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/flu.aspx>
2. Public Health Agency of Canada, Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
3. NACI Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2013-2014 season can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/13vol39/acs-dcc-4/index-eng.php>
4. Public Health Ontario now issues the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin which can be accessed at: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>