



Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
4th Floor, 300 Carlton St, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M9
T 204 788-6737 F 204 948-2040
www.manitoba.ca

January 6, 2014

Health Care Provider:

Influenza activity in Manitoba is increasing province-wide. pH1N1 Influenza A (A/California/7/2009-like) has been circulating since the pandemic of 2009/2010, and the epidemiology to date throughout Canada suggests that pH1N1 will be the dominant Influenza A strain during this season. During the pandemic of 2009/2010 pH1N1 caused disproportionate illness in infants, children and adults under 65 years of age. To date, Manitoba is seeing a similar pattern. The pH1N1 strain is included in this year's flu vaccine. In addition, all tested isolates are sensitive to the neuraminidase inhibitor oseltamivir.

2013/14 influenza epidemiology in Manitoba is updated weekly and can be found at the following link:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html>.

Manitoba's **Communicable Disease Management Protocol for Influenza** can be found at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influenza1.pdf>.

Health care providers are encouraged to continue to **offer influenza vaccine to all Manitobans at no charge**. An annual flu shot is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts. This includes:

- Seniors age 65 or older
- Residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities
- Children age six months to five years
- Those with chronic illness
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals of Aboriginal ancestry
- People who are severely overweight or obese

Manitoba Health would like to make providers aware of the most recent Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada **guidelines for the use of antiviral drugs for influenza**, available at:
<http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines/>

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By”

Richard Baydack, PhD
A/Director, Communicable Disease Control

“Original Signed By”

Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC,
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control