



# The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

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June 12, 2009

**TO: PHARMACY MANAGERS AND PHARMACISTS**

**RE:**

1. Request of Community Pharmacies to Report Availability of Antivirals
2. Pharmacies to Ensure Pandemic Preparedness Plans Are In Place
3. Information & Resources on Novel H1N1 Influenza Outbreak for Manitoba Pharmacists

The World Health Organization's decision to go to pandemic level six has not changed Manitoba's current response to the Novel H1N1 Influenza outbreak in this province. The amount and severity of disease in Manitoba will continue to guide the public health response. The influenza outbreak is province-wide and more cases are expected in communities across Manitoba. Most Manitobans who have become ill have experienced relatively less-serious cases of influenza illness and have not required hospitalization.

## 1. Request of Community Pharmacies to Report Availability of Antivirals

The MPhA and Manitoba Health and Health Living (MHHL) continue to receive reports from patients across the province unable to find a community pharmacy that is able to fill their prescription for antiviral medication. Ensuring that your pharmacy maintains an adequate supply of antiviral medication to dispense to patients in the community you serve is an important part of your pharmacy's Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

It is recommended that all community pharmacies maintain a minimum stock of:

- 5 X Tamiflu® 75 mg capsules in blister packages of 10 capsules each
- 1 bottle X Tamiflu® Powder for Oral Suspension (for pediatric use) – when reconstituted contains 75 ml of 12 mg/mL oseltamivir oral suspension.
- 1 box X Relenza® Rotadisks (5) & Diskhaler – Rotadisks consist of a circular foil disk with 4 regularly distributed blisters each containing 5 mg of zanamivir.

The MPhA and MHHL are requesting that community pharmacies report current supplies of these antivirals to facilitate patient access. Please complete the following report and forward back to the MPhA by fax (204-237-3468) or email ([info@mpha.mb.ca](mailto:info@mpha.mb.ca)) by Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

Pharmacy Name:

Licence No.:

Antiviral	Recommended Minimum Supply	Current Supply
Tamiflu® 75 mg capsules	5 X blister packages of 10 capsules each	
Tamiflu® Powder for Oral Suspension	1 bottle	
Relenza® Rotadisks (5) & Diskhaler	1 box	

## **2. Pharmacies to Ensure Pandemic Preparedness Plans Are In Place**

As direct patient care health care professionals, pharmacists are often the first contact for patients experiencing influenza-like symptoms. The onset of a pandemic will significantly affect morbidity and mortality of the general public and this will result in increased demands placed on pharmacists to communicate information to the public on:

- infection control and prevention;
- distribution of and treatment with antivirals; and
- vaccine administration.

At the same time of these increased demands, there will likely be an increase in staff absenteeism, drug supply chain issues and other business continuity concerns. All the more reason for pharmacists to ensure that their pandemic/emergency preparedness plans are in place and all pharmacy staff are informed.

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) has developed an extensive pandemic guide for pharmacists that includes information on:

- The role of a pharmacist in the event of a pandemic;
- Infection control and prevention in the pharmacy setting;
- Communicating critical information to patients and responding to increased patient care demands; and
- Creating and implementing an effective pandemic/emergency preparedness plan for your pharmacy.

The CPhA Guide for Pharmacists in Pandemic Preparedness is made available to all pharmacists on the CPhA website at [www.pharmacists.ca](http://www.pharmacists.ca) or through the MPhA website at [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca).

## **3. Information & Resources on Novel H1N1 Influenza Outbreak for Manitoba Pharmacists**

A direct link to the Manitoba Health H1N1 Influenza website and other information (e.g. MPhA Notices on H1N1 Influenza) and resources (e.g. NEJM H1N1 Influenza Site, CPhA's Pandemic Preparedness Resources for Pharmacists) has been placed on the homepage of the MPhA website. Visit the MPhA website on a regular basis by going to [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca), clicking on "MB" and then "H1N1 Flu Information" to be informed of the latest information.

Your assistance in these matters is appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Susan Lessard-Friesen  
Assistant Registrar