

November 3, 2009

Dear Colleague:

RE: Treatment of Patients with Suspect Pandemic H1N1 Influenza

Clinicians are reminded of the importance of early antiviral treatment (Tamiflu® or Relenza®).

Individuals with Mild Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) and one or more risk conditions should:

- Be promptly **assessed (including complete vital signs)** within 24 hours of onset of symptoms.
- Be prescribed **antiviral treatment within 48 hours** of onset of symptoms.
- Be reassessed promptly especially if symptoms worsen or do not improve within a reasonable amount of time.

Individuals with any signs and symptoms suggesting lower respiratory tract involvement and/or other system involvement (e.g. myocarditis, encephalitis) should:

- Be started on **antiviral** treatment and have a nasopharyngeal swab for influenza.
- Be further **investigated** (e.g. Chest Xray, pulse oximetry) as appropriate.
- Be under **close observation** in appropriate settings (i.e. ER, hospital ward, ICU).
- Consultation with a specialist in infectious diseases, pediatrics or intensive care is encouraged (204-787-2071).

Reporting Responsibilities: Clinicians are required to report within 24 hours any current or recent case(s) of ILI resulting in hospitalization or death. The "Hospitalized Influenza-Like Illness Reporting Form" can be faxed to (204) 948-3044 or a verbal report can be made by leaving a message at (204) 788-6481. The form can be found on the MHHL website at the following link:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/index.html>.

For **more information** on clinical care guidelines, please see the following links:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/docs/algorithm.pdf> (attached)
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/index.html#guidelines>

If you have any questions regarding this update or any matters of public health policy or practice, please contact your regional medical officer of health at (204)788-8666 (24/7) or the CPPHO at (204) 788-6666.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

Sincerely,
"Original letter signed by"

Joel Kettner, MD, MSc, FRCSC, FRCPC
Chief Public Health Officer