

October 22, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Update on Pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) Influenza

Manitoba is beginning to have more cases of the pH1N1 influenza and it is likely that the second wave has begun. Please note the following and take appropriate action.

Vaccination: Your patients/clients at higher risk of severe influenza-like illness (ILI) should be encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as feasible:

- Adjuvanted pH1N1 influenza vaccine has begun to arrive in Manitoba; unadjuvanted pH1N1 influenza vaccine is expected to begin to arrive within two or three weeks.
- pH1N1 influenza vaccine will be available at Regional Health Authority (RHA) immunization clinics scheduled to begin during the week of October 26th;
- Your highest-risk patients/clients should be encouraged to attend the RHA immunization clinics until additional vaccine quantities are available at which time, physicians and others will be notified when orders can be submitted.
- "Guidelines for Using Pandemic Influenza (pH1N1) Vaccine" will be available at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/flu/index.html>

Mild ILI: Patients with **risk conditions for severe ILI** should get prompt assessment and care within 24 hours (including antivirals) **even if they only have symptoms of mild ILI;**

Severe ILI: Patients with symptoms of severe ILI should get immediate medical and/or hospital care;

Reporting: Health care providers are reminded to report all cases of patients hospitalized for ILI (i.e. severe ILI) within 24 hours of admission to Manitoba Public Health by confidential fax (204) 948-3044 or telephone (204) 788-8666 or other arrangements as directed by the Regional Medical Officer of Health.

Updated and new clinical care guidance documents are now available on the Manitoba Government website at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/index.html>

- "Manitoba Interim Guidance for Clinicians in Ambulatory Care Settings for Adults and Adolescents Presenting with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness During a Pandemic Influenza Period (H1N1)"; **(updated)**
- "Clinical Decision Making Algorithm for Adults/Adolescents Presenting with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness During a Pandemic Influenza Period (H1N1)"; **(updated)**
- "Manitoba Interim Guidance for Clinical Care Guidance for Pregnant and Post-partum Women Presenting with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness During a Pandemic Influenza Period (H1N1)"; **(new)**
- "Pediatric Clinical Decision Making Algorithm Presenting with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness During a Pandemic Influenza Period (H1N1)"; **(new)**

It is anticipated that frequent changes and/or updates will occur to guidelines as additional information becomes available. Please check these websites frequently and take steps to ensure all current information is shared with staff in your area. Additional resources for health care professionals and for the public are available at:
www.manitoba.ca.

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 during these times of challenge and opportunity.

Sincerely,

"Original letter signed by"