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](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html).


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/](http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines/)

Please share this information will 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