

Important Health Notice

May 14, 2009

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Information for Healthcare Professionals UPDATE

This Important Health Notice (IHN) is based on current information received to date and provides the following:

- Status update
- Notice of future changes to guidance materials
- Current hours of operation for the Health Care Provider Hotline

Highlights:

- Status update on the current H1N1 situation in Ontario
- Notice of future changes to guidance documents
- Hours of operation for the Health Care Provider Hotline

Status Update:

The World Health Organization pandemic threat level remains unchanged at Phase Five.

As of May 14, 2009 there were 155 lab-confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario. Of these cases, 48 had a travel history to Mexico. Of the remaining 107 cases, 64 acquired the H1N1 flu virus in Ontario, 3 had a travel history to another affected region and 40 cases continue to be investigated. Nearly all H1N1 cases in Ontario are considered mild. There have been few hospitalized cases, most of which have recovered and have been discharged.

NOTE: The 155 lab-confirmed cases in Ontario is a cumulative total. This constitutes 2.2% of laboratory tests performed up to May 13th, 2009 as part of enhanced surveillance. The majority of these cases have fully recovered.

Notice of Future Changes:

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continues to work with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to collect and assess information on the novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario and other affected regions.

Health care professionals are advised that changes to guidance materials will be released next week through an Important Health Notice and updates to the ministry's H1N1 website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html

Changes to the following documents are expected:

- *Clinical Guidelines for Management of Patients with ILI in Emergency Departments*
- *Clinical Guidelines for Management of Patients with ILI in Ambulatory Care Settings*
- *Guidance for ILI Management in Long-Term Care*



In the meantime, health care professionals should continue to exercise vigilance and follow the guidance materials previously distributed and accessible on the ministry's H1N1 website.

Health Care Provider Hotline

If you have any questions or concerns on the existing Important Health Notices and related guidance documents, please call the Health Care Provider Hotline toll-free at 1-866-212-2272.

Hours of Operation*:

Monday-Friday	0900hrs to 1600hrs
Saturday-Sunday	CLOSED**
Victoria Day	CLOSED**

*Hours of Operation are subject to change. Please monitor future Important Health Notices for changes.

**On-call services available for urgent issues.

(original signed by)

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