

How will my union be kept informed during a flu pandemic?

FACT SHEET FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

This fact sheet provides an overview for health care providers about the communication protocols established between unions and the ministry.

Are unions involved in the development of the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP)?

- OHPIP is an evergreen plan that continues to be enhanced and updated based on emerging scientific evidence and input from key health stakeholders and emergency management experts.
- Key health care unions and provider associations, including the Ontario Nurses Association, Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, are members of the Steering Committee that provides stewardship on the development of OHPIP. It is expected that these representatives provide updates to their membership on the issues that impact them.

How will the government communicate with organized labour during a pandemic?

- The ministry has developed a Daily Information Cycle for a Health Emergency to ensure health care provider provincial associations receive regular timely reports and that information is disseminated and briefings are conducted at pre-determined times each day.

- The Information Cycle includes a pre-scheduled teleconference for key health stakeholders and labour groups each day at 0830hrs. A graphic of the cycle is included at the end of this fact sheet. For more information on the Daily Information Cycle see the fact sheet, *How will I be kept informed during a flu pandemic?*
- The ministry will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Labour on issues related to the health and safety of health care providers during a pandemic (e.g., personal protective equipment). The Ministry of Labour is included as a permanent member of the Scientific Response Team which will provide the technical and scientific expertise for management of the pandemic and infection control as per the Ministry Emergency Response Plan.

How will my Joint Health and Safety Committee be kept informed?

- A joint health and safety committee - or, in smaller workplaces, the health and safety representative - is an advisory group of workers and management representatives. It meets regularly to discuss health and safety concerns, review progress and make recommendations to improve workplace health and safety.
- Health care organizations are required to share directives from the ministry with their joint health and safety committee or safety representative.

- The engagement of joint health and safety committees is necessary in the development of pandemic plans by the employer as per the direction of the OHPIP.
- Further information on the role of joint health and safety committees and the application of occupational health and safety legislation is provided in Chapter 7 of the OHPIP on Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety. This chapter is posted on the ministry's website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/pan_flu/pan_flu_plan.html

For more information

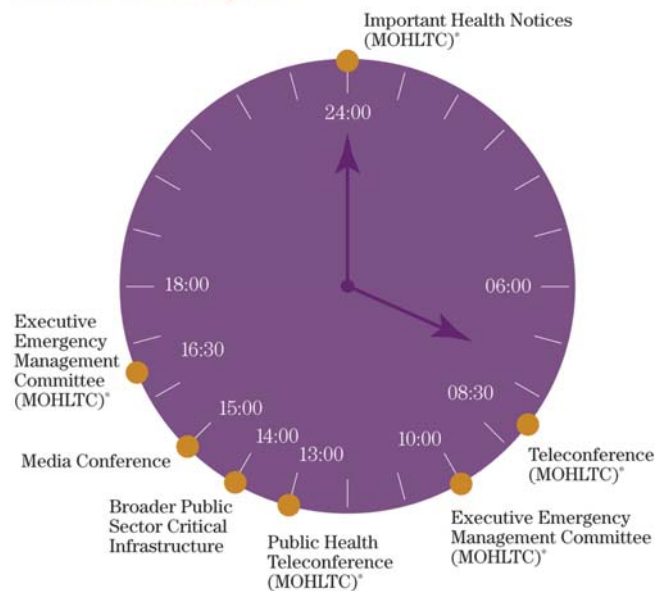
Visit our website at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic

Or call

INFOline 1-866-801-7242

Information Cycle



* Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care