

Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) – Information Update May 5, 2009

In an effort to keep Alberta Health Services staff and physicians informed on the developing Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) outbreak, regular information updates from the AHS Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) will be provided through staff intranets, and made available to staff who have limited intranet access. These notices are meant to provide a consistent source of information about Alberta Health Services response to the Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) outbreak. New information will be added to the update area on your intranets as it becomes available.

N95 Masks

A reminder to all staff regarding the use of masks. Please use:

- procedure/surgical masks for routine care including a compliant patient with respiratory hygiene practices or a patient who has a weak or no cough.
- N95 respirators (masks) used only for aerosol-producing procedures (e.g., NP swabs/aspirates, intubation, bronchoscopy) OR when the patient is coughing forcefully AND is unable or unwilling to comply with respiratory hygiene.
- The surgical mask or N95 respirator (mask) should be removed by the straps after leaving the patient's room. Be careful not to touch the mask or respirator itself and dispose of the mask in the garbage. Perform hand hygiene after removing respiratory protection and leaving the patient's room.

Regional EOCs Established

Regional Emergency Operations Centres are now operational in most areas of the province. The centres are in running five days a week from 0830 until 1700 hours in:

- **Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Covenant Health which is co-located in the ECC in Edmonton.**

Defer to your local On-Call protocols for after hours assistance.

Surveillance Update

As of May 5 the World Health Organization is reporting that 23 countries have officially reported 1490 cases of Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) infection.

Canada: 165

Alberta: 26



Influenza Self Care - Guidelines

Alberta Health and Wellness has updated Influenza Self Care information available on its website. The Influenza Self Care guidelines provides valuable information to the public on:

- How to prevent Influenza
- How to help yourself and others when influenza happens
- When to seek medical care

The guidelines are available on the AH&W website at:

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-H1N1.html>

Caution Against Counterfeit Products

Health Canada issued an advisory on May 3, cautioning the public not to purchase products claiming to fight or prevent Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV), or reduce symptoms associated with flu in general. The Advisory is available on the Health Canada website at:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/med/internet-eng.php>

Schools and Daycare Recommendations

To assist public health authorities in responding to the current Influenza A H1N1(SOIV) outbreak, the Public Health Agency of Canada has released interim recommendations regarding schools and daycare centres.

At present, PHAC is not recommending the closure of schools or daycares, even if a confirmed case is identified in those settings. Ill students and staff should remain at home and seek medical attention as necessary.

The recommendations are available on the PHAC website at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/interim-provisaires-05-03-eng.php>

Currently, the Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) infection in Canada appears to be presenting symptoms similar to seasonal influenza.

These public health response recommendations may change as further information becomes available.