

Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) – Information Update May 8, 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.

Alberta reports death associated to H1N1 virus

Dr. André Corriveau Chief Medical Officer of Health AHW and Dr. Gerry Predy, Senior Medical Officer of Health, AHS announced the presence of the H1N1 virus in an individual who passed away April 28, 2009.

The cause of death was assessed to be linked to chronic pre-existing medical conditions at the time of death.

“We are taking all actions and precautions as we follow this situation,” said Dr. Predy. “Close contacts of all individuals confirmed with the H1N1 virus in Alberta are being appropriately monitored.”

<http://alberta.ca/acn/200905/259242139AF3B-EAF5-7B05-E494387E15CBB73.html>

Fit Testing and Planning

OH&S is coordinating fit testing for priority areas: ER, Critical Care/Urgent Care, Lab, Respiratory Therapy, EMS and personnel working in negative pressure rooms.

Once the priority areas have been addressed, subsequent areas will be notified as to when and where fit testing will be held.

Planning continues for the potential implementation of assessment clinics, however, there are no indications of the need for assessment clinics at present time.

Surveillance Update

As of May 8, the World Health Organization is reporting that 24 countries have officially reported 2384 cases of Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) infection.

Canada: 214

Alberta: 42



Physician Kits

Alberta Health Services – Emergency Coordination Centre (AHS-ECC) is working on providing physician offices with supplies to assist them with patients presenting at their offices with Influenza like illness.

Information about the supply and distribution of physician office kits is being finalized and will be sent out to physician offices shortly.

Updated Q&As for Schools

Updated questions and answers for schools and parents are posted on the AHS website. One of the new questions is:

Should schools and daycares be closed if there is a suspected or confirmed case?

The occurrence of Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) illness is similar to typical seasonal influenza. **Closure of schools and daycare centres is not being recommended at this time.** This advice also applies even if a confirmed case is identified in a school or daycare centre. Ill students and staff should remain at home and seek medical attention as necessary.

For questions related to Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) the **public** should be referred to the Alberta Health Services website for information:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>

Or to:

Health Link Alberta at: 1-866-408-LINK (5465)

**Calgary: 403-943-LINK (5465)
Edmonton: 780-408-LINK (5465)**