

## Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) – Information Update May 11, 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.

### Pigs Culled

A limited cull of pigs at a quarantined central Alberta pig farm where the Influenza A H1N1 virus was found to have infected the herd occurred over the weekend. This was done for animal welfare and was not linked to the H1N1 virus. The cull addressed overcrowding issues while the farm remains under quarantine. The infected herd will be released from quarantine once all animals are deemed healthy by Alberta Agriculture and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

### EOC Operations

Regional Emergency Operations Centres' hours of operation are being reviewed. Reducing the schedule for areas with no confirmed cases is under consideration.

AHS and AHW continue to operate the joint Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) 12 hours a day including weekends, to coordinate response activities and facilitate communication. ECC hours of operation are also under review for this week.

### Scientific Advisory Committee

AHS has an expert advisory committee that reviews and advises on practices and protocols as more is learned about the H1N1 virus.

AHW and AHS have antiviral stock available for staff and patients according to protocols recommended by the advisory committee.

### Surveillance Update

As of May 11 the World Health Organization is reporting that 30 countries have officially reported 4694 cases of Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) infection.

Canada: 284 (May 10)      Alberta: 52

### Provincial Lab Update

Specimen volume at Provincial Lab is high, but they are coping well with the current submissions. Volume is expected to remain higher than usual in the coming weeks.

To help our colleagues in Prov Lab, **please take extra care filling out specimen requisitions.** Incomplete information means extra steps and time.

### School Advice

Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Health Services are working with Alberta Education to finalize standardized school documents for Alberta's school boards. AHW continues to support the Public Health Agency of Canada recommendations to **not close** schools when students are confirmed to have Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV) virus.

### Looking For More Information About Influenza A H1N1?

Information and resources are available to AHS staff on the AHS website at:

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

Information and resources are also available through:

- Local staff intranets, where available.
- Local Occupational Health and Safety staff; and,
- Local Infection Prevention and Control staff.

**For questions about Influenza A H1N1, the public can be referred to Health Link at:**

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

**Calgary: 403-943-LINK (5465)**

**Edmonton: 780-408-LINK (5465)**

