Date: October 2019  
To: Long Term Care Managers, Central Zone  
From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone  
Subject: Outbreak Management Resources 2019-2020 Season

Dear Long Term Care Manager(s):

The Long Term Care Outbreak Management resources are divided into 3 sections:

I. General Outbreak Management  
II. Gastrointestinal Outbreak Management  
III. Influenza-like-illness (ILI) Outbreak Management

These resources will be posted on Alberta Health Services’ (AHS) Central Zone Medical Officer of Health (CZMOH) webpage (external) at www.ahs.ca/czmoh; alternately, visit AHS Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) webpage www.ahs.ca/info/page6410.aspx, and select Zone Info, then Outbreak Management.

Questions concerning gastrointestinal illness (GI) outbreaks should be directed to Environmental Public Health at: 1-866-654-7890; those concerning influenza-like-illness (ILI) should be directed to Communicable Disease Control (CDC) at: 403-356-6420. Additional contact information (fax, CDC after-hours) is available at: Central Zone Public Health Contact Information.

Additional Important Information Concerning Section III, Influenza-like-illness (ILI) Outbreak Management (please draw item “b” below to the attention of your pharmacists)

a. Staff Influenza Immunization:
   • AHS strongly recommends all staff receive annual influenza immunization in-advance of an outbreak occurring. During an outbreak, unimmunized staff will normally be required to take antivirals or be excluded from work. Please distribute the letter “Important Notice to Staff About Influenza Vaccine and Antivirals” to all staff.

b. Provision of prophylactic antivirals to residents during an outbreak:
   • All AHS facilities and some non-AHS facilities which contract with AHS pharmacies: These will have existing mechanisms in-place for physician-signed standing orders, with doses determined by pharmacists. For further details, please contact the AHS pharmacist working with your facility.
• Non-AHS facilities which do not contract with AHS pharmacies:
For standing antiviral orders for residents, and orders for creatinine clearance (when physicians deem appropriate), pharmacists should fax the form Physician/LTC Facility Pharmacist Antiviral Prophylaxis Standing-Order Template to physicians.

It consists of 2 parts:
- Fax Letter from Facility Pharmacist to Physician
- Fax Letter from Physician to Facility Pharmacist

Pharmacists are to complete the “To” and “From” sections on the Fax Letter from Facility Pharmacist to Physician and the resident information and “To” sections on the Fax Letter from Physician to Facility Pharmacist, before faxing both.

Physicians are to mark an “X” for the oseltamivir standing order and (as appropriate) an “X” for a creatinine clearance order on the Fax Letter from Physician to Facility Pharmacist and return-fax it to the Long Term Care Facility Pharmacist.

• Antiviral prophylactic and treatment dosages are available at:
Prophylactic antivirals are administered until at least 7 days following the onset of the last case. Prescriptions are usually made for 10 days, with a single 5 day refill. If there is a stock shortage, local AHS Hospital Pharmacies may be able to loan if transportation can be arranged at your cost.

Thank you for your assistance in outbreak management!