

Influenza Outbreak Antiviral Medication Recommended for Unimmunized Staff and HCWs

A Confirmed Influenza Outbreak is Occurring at Your Worksite

Central Zone Medical Officers of Health (MOHs), Alberta Health Services (AHS) recommend all unimmunized staff and health care workers (HCWs) receive an antiviral medication, Oseltamivir, to prevent infection of staff, HCWs, residents, and patients.

Unimmunized staff and HCWs are recommended to **not work** when there is an outbreak unless they are taking the antiviral medication. They are allowed to work at another site without an influenza outbreak once they have waited three (3) days to ensure they are not infected.

Depending on employer-employee health insurance arrangements, staff and HCWs may be required to pay for antivirals.

Some unimmunized staff and HCWs may have contacted their physician, prescribing pharmacist, or nurse practitioner in the fall to arrange to have a prescription on-file at their pharmacy. In this case, please visit your pharmacy to obtain the medication. The MOH will notify local pharmacies of the outbreak (weekdays only). Other unimmunized staff/HCWs should contact their physician, a prescribing pharmacist (<https://abpharmacy.ca>), or nurse practitioner for a prescription; your site manager might also provide you with direction for obtaining antivirals.

If you have questions about this recommendation, please contact your site manager.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.