

Influenza Activity in Continuing Care Central Zone

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

To: Central Zone Emergency Department, Family, Internal Medicine, and Paediatric Physicians; U of A Family Medicine Residency Program; Emergency Department Staff and Clinical Nurse Educators; Nurse Practitioners

CC: Seniors Health; Emergency Medical Services; Infection Prevention and Control; Workplace Health and Safety; Alberta Precision Laboratories; Chief Zone Officer; Medical Director; Medical Affairs; Communications; Environmental Public Health; Senior Operating Officers; Executive Directors, Area Directors; Public Health Director and Managers; Acute Care Pharmacies; CD Outbreak

From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Central Zone

Subject: Late Season Influenza A Activity

Please be advised that there has been a late season surge of Influenza A cases (H3N2) across Canada since the beginning of May, with positivity rates above 5% nationally.

Central Zone had its first Influenza outbreaks declared at Continuing Care sites in Rocky Mountain House and Daysland in the past week. There have been 115 cases identified in Central Zone this season; surveillance data is available at: www.alberta.ca/influenza-the-flu.aspx.

Antiviral medication prophylaxis (oseltamivir) is usually provided to residents and unimmunized staff during Continuing Care outbreaks as per the Central Zone MOH website: www.ahs.ca/czmoh (see *Outbreak Management*, select the type of care setting, and open the *Section III-ILI* tab).

*To ensure prompt identification of Influenza outbreaks in Continuing Care, health care providers are requested to please test residents presenting to the Emergency Department with acute respiratory symptoms for **both** COVID and Influenza.*

- guidelines on the use of antivirals for treatment of patients:
<https://jammi.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/jammi-2022-01-31>

Thank you for your attention and assistance in the management of Influenza cases and outbreaks.