

Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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January 11, 2013

Dear Health Care Provider:

Influenza activity in Manitoba continues to increase province-wide. Influenza A (H3N2) is the predominant strain circulating at this time. This circulating influenza strain is included in this year's flu vaccine. In addition, no circulating strains identified in Canada this year have to date shown resistance to the antiviral oseltamivir.

Influenza epidemiology in Manitoba is updated weekly and can be found at the following link:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html>.

Manitoba's **Communicable Disease Management Protocol** for Influenza can be found at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influenza1.pdf>.

Providers are encouraged to continue to **offer influenza vaccine to all Manitobans** at no charge. An annual flu shot is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts. This includes:

- Seniors age 65 or older
- Residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities
- Children age six months to five years
- Those with chronic illness
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals of Aboriginal ancestry
- People who are severely overweight or obese

Manitoba Health would like to make providers aware of the most recent Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada **guidelines for the use of antiviral drugs for influenza**, available at:
http://www.ammi.ca/media/48038/14791_aoki_final.pdf.pdf

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

"Original Signed By"

Kathleen Messner R.N. B.N.
Director, Communicable Disease Control

"Original Signed By"

Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC,
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control