



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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Health Care Provider:

There has been a recent increase in influenza (flu) activity across Manitoba. Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 virus is the dominant strain circulating at this time. This current wave of influenza activity is expected to last several weeks.

Health care providers can continue to offer flu vaccine to all Manitobans at no charge. An annual flu vaccine is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts. FluMist is no longer available.

Preliminary estimates of vaccine effectiveness from the United States suggest that the vaccines available in Manitoba are on average 60% effective against ALL circulating strains.

>99% of all H1N1 strains tested to date have been sensitive to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Manitoba Health, Health Living and Seniors (MHLS) encourages providers to refer to the most recent Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI) guidelines for the use of antiviral drugs for influenza (available at <http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines/>), as well as the Canadian Paediatric Society guidelines (available at <http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/use-of-antiviral-drugs-for-influenza-paediatric-summary-2012-2013>).

Regularly updated 2015/2016 influenza epidemiology in Manitoba is available at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/influenza/index.html>. Manitoba's Communicable Disease Management Protocol for Influenza can be found at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influenza1.pdf>.

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

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

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A/Director
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