

# Important Health Notice

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## Information for Health Care Providers – pH1N1 Update

### Status Update

Many parts of Ontario continue to experience increased Influenza-like Illness (ILI) activity. pH1N1 is currently the predominant circulating strain of influenza in the province. Health care providers are encouraged to view the Ontario Influenza Bulletin to identify the extent of influenza activity in their community. This information is available at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/flu\\_bulletin.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/flu_bulletin.aspx).

### Updates on Clinical Guidance Documents issued October 14, 2009

The following updates have been made to the clinical guidance documents for emergency departments, ambulatory care settings, and long-term care settings:

- Treatment with antivirals for patients with ILI who are not at high risk of complications and who present within 48 hours of symptoms onset may be considered, based on clinical judgement. Previous guidance only recommended treatment of patients at risk of complications, patients with abnormal vital signs and patients with worsening clinical status.
- Information on complications of pH1N1 (such as pneumonia, invasive secondary bacterial infections, myocarditis, encephalitis, and acute myositis) is added as an appendix to assist health care providers in the early recognition and management of these

### Highlights:

- The ministry has updated its clinical guidance for emergency departments, ambulatory care settings, and long-term care settings.
- Influenza A subtyping and Influenza B PCR will be done on selected samples only.
- Emergency departments and primary care providers are requested to report adverse events following immunization.

complications, including antiviral treatment beyond the 48 hour window.

- Post-partum duration to be considered at-risk for complications has been extended from 4 weeks to 6 weeks.
- A new section on paediatric patients has been added to provide guidance on clinical diagnosis and treatment.

Updated clinical guidance documents can be found on the ministry website at [www.ontario.ca/flu](http://www.ontario.ca/flu); click on the link to “Health Care Professionals” on the left-hand side column.

### Laboratory Testing

Based on the current situation, the Public Health Laboratories (PHL) of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion have changed current testing recommendations. For more information, see Lababstracts at:

<http://www.oahpp.ca/publichealthlababstracts.php>.