

# Important Health Notice

May 19, 2009

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## Information for Healthcare Professionals UPDATE

This Important Health Notice (IHN) is based on current information received to date and provides the following:

- Status update
- Updated guidance materials
- Current hours of operation for the Health Care Provider Hotline

### Status Update:

The World Health Organization pandemic threat level remains unchanged at Phase Five.

As of May 19, 2009 there were 272 lab-confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario. Of these cases, 51 had a travel history to Mexico. Of the remaining 221 cases, 144 acquired the H1N1 flu virus in Ontario, 6 had a travel history to another affected region and 71 cases continue to be investigated. Nearly all H1N1 cases in Ontario are considered mild. There have been few hospitalized cases, most of which have recovered and have been discharged.

NOTE: Of the 272 cases, 253 were confirmed at the Central Public Health Lab in Ontario, which is a cumulative total. This constitutes 4.2% of laboratory tests performed up to May 19th, 2009 as part of enhanced surveillance. The majority of these cases have fully recovered.

### Highlights:

- Status update on the current H1N1 situation in Ontario
- Hours of operation for the Health Care Provider Hotline

### What's New:

- Updated guidance for Ambulatory Care Settings, Emergency Departments and Long-Term Care.

### Updated Guidance Materials:

Based on the information gathered to date, the ministry has reviewed and revised the guidance previously provided to health care providers

The following documents have been updated to reflect the current situation:

- *Clinical Guidelines for Management of Patients with ILI in Emergency Departments*
- *Clinical Guidelines for Management of Patients with ILI in Ambulatory Care Settings*
- *Guidance for ILI Management in Long-Term Care*

The changes to the documents include:

- Updated definition of ILI
- Further refinement of procedures for laboratory testing and patient reporting
- Additional guidance on the management of patients with ILI symptoms
- Revised treatment criteria and considerations for patients/clients with ILI

The updated documents are available on the ministry H1N1 Flu Virus website in the section for Health Care Providers:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu\\_09/provider/default.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html)

### **Health Care Provider Hotline**

If you have any questions or concerns on the existing Important Health Notices and related guidance documents, please call the Health Care Provider Hotline toll-free at 1-866-212-2272.

#### Hours of Operation\*:

Monday-Friday	0900hrs to 1600hrs
Saturday-Sunday	CLOSED**

\*Hours of Operation are subject to change. Please monitor future Important Health Notices for changes.

\*\*On-call services are available for urgent issues, and can be reached through the Health Care Provider Hotline.

*(original signed by)*

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Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health

*(original signed by)*

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