

Important Health Notice

Information for Healthcare Professionals UPDATE

May 7, 2009
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This Important Health Notice (IHN) is based on the current information received to date and provides the following:

- Status update
- Information on novel H1N1 Influenza A for primary care practitioners and commonly asked questions and answers
- New hours of operation for the Health Care Providers Hotline

Status Update:

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

Laboratory analysis to date indicates that the majority of specimens testing positive for influenza are the usual human strains and not the novel H1N1 strain.

In addition, while enhanced surveillance was initiated within the last few weeks for the novel H1N1 strain, the overall influenza activity is not unusually high for this time of year.

As of May 7th, there are 56 lab-confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario. Of the 56 confirmed cases, 37 have a travel history to Mexico. 12 of the cases without a travel history to Mexico had close contact with confirmed cases and the exposure history for the remaining cases continues to be investigated.

All of the cases are mild and are recovering at home.

Highlights:

- The number of Ontario's confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A is 56
- Laboratory analysis to date indicates that majority of influenza strains are the usual human strains and not the novel H1N1 strain
- While enhanced surveillance was initiated in the last weeks for the novel H1N1 strain, the overall influenza activity is not unusually high

What's New:

- New resources for primary care practitioners are available

Resources for Primary Care Practitioners

The document *Information on the Novel H1N1 Influenza A for Primary Care Practitioners* and a set of Frequently Asked Questions are now available.

These documents are available through the ministry website on the Important Health Notices page at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html>

For questions on Important Health Notices, please call the Health Care Providers Hotline toll-free at 1-866-212-2272.



Note:

**Hours of operation for the Health Care
Providers Hotline have now changed:**

Saturday, May 9th 0800hrs to 1600hrs
Sunday, May 10th CLOSED

(on-call available for urgent situations)

Monday May 11th - Friday May 15th
0900hrs to 1700hrs

Please monitor future Important Health Notices for
any further changes in hours of operation

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