

WRHA H1N1 UPDATE FOR PHYSICIANS –December 1, 2009

PLEASE POST AND CIRCULATE TO OTHER PHYSICIANS IN YOUR CLINIC / PROGRAM

This is the weekly update that is sent by WRHA every **Tuesday**. For archived updates please go to our health professional's page at: <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/professionals/index.php>

VACCINES:

- pH1N1 immunization clinics will be open this week from Monday to Saturday at a reduced number of locations. Please go to www.wrha.mb.ca for the most up-to-date listing.
- The phone line for homebound clients will now be closing. WRHA home care clients can still receive vaccine through the home care program.

SURVEILLANCE & PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES:

- New pH1N1 confirmed cases in Winnipeg residents since Nov 27 is 64 bringing the total number of confirmed cases since Oct 5, 2009 to 613. Total number of pH1N1-confirmed cases in Winnipeg hospitals since Oct 6, 2009: 55. Of these, 12 are ICU admissions. Number of H1N1/SRI cases currently in ICU: 5. Of these 5: 3 are confirmed pH1N1 cases, 0 are negative for H1N1, 2 with unknown H1N1 status (test results pending). All 5 are being mechanically ventilated.
- CPL update: 498 specimens processed, down from 1027 last week. Of the 498, 360 were positive for pH1N1 with 17 pending, suggesting that the predominant circulating respiratory virus continue to be pH1N1.
- Surveillance indicators suggest that we have passed the peak of this current wave; however pH1N1 cases are expected to continue to occur in significant numbers over the next several weeks and likely throughout the remainder of influenza season.
- The second wave appears to have been larger than the first wave in Winnipeg, but to date the severity has been lower in the second wave.

OFFICE PREPAREDNESS:

- MHHL Primary Care Branch sent out a package that included the pH1N1 vaccine order form and a quick tips fact sheet to health care providers on Friday, November 27, notifying physicians that they can now begin ordering the H1N1 vaccine
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/guidelines.html>
- MHHL announced publically today that the vaccine will now be available for physicians to order.

Please send questions you would like covered in these H1N1 updates, or comments to physicianinfoh1n1@wrha.mb.ca

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