

WRHA H1N1 UPDATE FOR PHYSICIANS –December 8, 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>.

As the second wave is now in decline and vaccine provision is being normalized, this will be the final edition of the WRHA pH1N1 physician updates. We are interested in receiving your feedback on whether these bulletins were helpful for your practice. The Joint Operating Division is developing a website to improve communications with all medical staff early in the New Year. We are interested in hearing from you so please send any feedback around communication to physicianinfoh1n1@wrha.mb.ca.

As a reminder, any physician wishing to consult on a public health issue can reach a WRHA Medical Officer of Health at 940-3607 during normal business hours, or the on call provincial MOH at 788-8666 after business hours.

VACCINES:

- The mass public pH1N1 immunization clinics will be closing at the end of this week. Public Health will be shifting back to providing immunization through community area sites, as well as looking at options to further target some specific populations. Future details on public health immunization options will be available at www.wrha.mb.ca
- To date, a relatively small number of physician offices have ordered pH1N1 vaccine. Any physicians who are interested in providing pH1N1 immunization to their patients are encouraged to order the vaccine through normal vaccine ordering channels.

SURVEILLANCE & PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES:

- New pH1N1 confirmed cases in Winnipeg residents since Dec 3 number 17 bringing the total number of confirmed cases since Oct 5, 2009 to 655. Total number of pH1N1-confirmed cases in Winnipeg hospitals since Oct 6, 2009 number 68. Of these, 16 are ICU admissions. Number of pH1N1/SRI cases currently in ICU: 5. Of these 5: 3 are confirmed pH1N1 cases, 1 is negative for pH1N1, 1 with unknown pH1N1 status (test results pending). All 5 are being mechanically ventilated.
- CPL update: 336 specimens processed last week. Of these, 80 were positive for pH1N1 with 17 pending. Non-influenza respiratory viruses that were also detected last week include 1 RSV (tested by culture), 5 parainfluenza samples, and 2 Adenovirus.

Through the course of the second wave, viral testing and antiviral prescription sales in Manitoba coincided well with other surveillance indicators, suggesting that physicians followed clinical care guidelines appropriately and effectively. While there is not yet a clear consensus as to what factors led to the relative reduction in burden and severity of illness in the second wave compared with the first wave, clinical care likely played an important role and for that Winnipeg physicians are to be congratulated.

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