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**WRHA MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UPDATE FOR PHYSICIANS
December, 2010**

INFLUENZA:

This past week's surveillance report from Cadham Provincial Laboratory describes a significant jump in influenza positive samples. For week 48, the total number of submitted samples was 82, of which 42 were positive for influenza. All of these are the H3N2 strain that is part of this year's trivalent vaccine. Almost all of the positive samples are related to an outbreak in northern First Nations communities. Winnipeg this week has also seen an increase in reported influenza clusters. These reports suggest that influenza cases in Winnipeg will increase in the coming weeks. As a reminder, this year's influenza vaccine is covered under the provincial program for all Manitobans, and physicians are asked to continue identifying and providing immunization to any patient they feel would benefit. An information sheet on how to properly collect nasopharyngeal aspirates and swabs can be accessed at:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/docs/nasopharyngeal_collection.pdf

INVASIVE PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE (IPD):

The WRHA Population and Public Health team is currently tracking an increase in IPD in Winnipeg. To date, 88 cases of IPD have been reported in Winnipeg in 2010, compared to an annual average of 58 cases over the previous three years. The increase appears to be mediated in large part by an increase in the 12F serotype, primarily in the form of septicemia, in unimmunized 30-64 year old inner city adults. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. Physicians are asked to review PPV23 (polysaccharide vaccine) immunization status and provide vaccine to patients who would benefit, in particular for at risk inner city adults. Manitoba Health immunization schedules and vaccine eligibility can be accessed at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/schedules.html>

Please send any feedback you have on this update to physicianinfo@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.

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