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- **Update #13: Novel H1N1 influenza A virus, May 19, 2009**

FROM:

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This is an update to the May 15th, 2009 communication on novel H1N1 influenza A virus.

New Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Important Health Notice (IHN)

The MOHLTC released a new IHN on May 19th. The IHN advises of revisions to clinical guidance documents for management of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) in ambulatory care settings, emergency departments and long-term care.

Highlights of the attached Guidance for Management of Patients with ILI in Ambulatory Settings include:

1. Updated case definition of influenza-like illness (ILI)

ILI is defined by:

- Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever **AND** cough, **AND** with one or more of the following symptoms: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration.
- Gastrointestinal symptoms may be present in children under 5 years or age.

2. N95 Respirators

Healthcare workers are advised to wear a fit tested N95 respirator in addition to using droplet and contact precautions when within 2 meters of caring for ILI patients. When N95 respirators are not available, surgical masks may be used by provider and patient.

3. Screening

Both active and passive screening are recommended. Health care providers are encouraged to use the signage and screening tool available at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html

Situation Update

Case Update

- As of May 19th at 3pm, there are 272 confirmed cases of novel H1N1 influenza A in Ontario.
- As of May 19th at 3pm there are 40 confirmed cases in Peel.

4. Laboratory Testing

Lab testing for ILI patients with mild illness is not currently recommended. Specimens will be triaged for lab testing based on patient severity. **Record all clinical symptoms, risk factors and patient contact information on test requisitions.**

5. Reporting

Physicians should only report patients who have laboratory confirmed influenza or those who are part of an unusual cluster of ILI to Peel Public Health.

6. Treatment

Oseltamivir is recommended within 48 hours of symptom onset only for patients with fever AND acute ILI or pneumonia requiring hospitalization, or for patients at risk for complications. **Other ILI patients do not require treatment.**

More Information

Updated guidelines for management of patients in emergency departments and long-term care are available at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html

For more information on novel H1N1 influenza A virus, please call the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Healthcare Provider Hotline toll free at **1-866-212-2272 or Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.**