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- **Update #14: Novel H1N1 influenza A virus, June 4, 2009**

FROM:

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This is an update to the May 20th, 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 June 4th. The attached IHN has links to revised clinical guidance for Ambulatory Care Settings and Emergency Departments.

Highlights from the NEW guidance documents:

1. Lab testing

Lab testing is only required for:

- clinical management of hospitalized cases of ILI (influenza like illness) OR
- for patients at high risk for complications from influenza, such as:
 - immunocompromised patients,
 - Pregnant women,
 - Persons under the age of 2 years or over 65 years of age.

Lab testing is not recommended for:

- patients with mild symptoms of ILI
- determining if treatment with antivirals is indicated.

Treatment decisions should be based on clinical features only.

Situation Update

Novel H1N1 has been confirmed as the predominant circulating influenza strain in many communities throughout Ontario

Case Update

- As of June 5th at 3 pm, there were 1,078 lab-confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A virus in Ontario. Nearly all cases in Ontario are considered mild.
- As of June 5th, 2009 at 9 am there have been 250 lab-confirmed cases in Peel

2. Reporting

As a reminder, patients who have laboratory confirmed influenza or those who are part of an unusual cluster must be reported promptly to Peel Public Health. Institutional outbreaks of respiratory infections are reportable as usual.

3. Guidelines for patient management

Updated guidelines for the management of patients in emergency department and ambulatory care settings 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:

- Call the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's **Health Care Provider Hotline** toll free at 1-866-212-2272 (Monday to Friday 0900 to 1600hrs. On-call services are available for urgent issues through the Health Care Provider Hotline), or
- Call **Peel Public Health** at 905-799-7700 or
- Visit our website at:
http://www.peelregion.ca/health/topics/communicable_disease/flu-swine.htm