



## H1N1 FLU VIRUS HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

# ALERT

June 11/09

### H1N1 Flu Activity in Northwestern Ontario Likely to Increase

H1N1 has been confirmed in Northwestern Ontario. The Health Unit is advising health care providers that it will likely become the predominant flu strain throughout our region as seasonal flu strains are now in rapid decline.

One case is being treated at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. This case was transferred to the TBRHSC from another district.

Today, the WHO raised the global pandemic alert level from 5 to 6, meaning that a global outbreak of H1N1 flu has begun. The MOHLTC reports that, as of June 10, 2009, there were 1,562 cases of H1N1 flu virus in Ontario. Almost all cases to date in Ontario have been considered mild. The vast majority have recovered. To date, two people in Ontario who had the H1N1 virus and chronic medical conditions have died. Currently, there is no reported increase in influenza-like-illness in our District.

Links to the most recent Ministry guidance documents on managing patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) in Emergency Departments, Ambulatory Settings, and Long-term Care settings is posted at [www.tbdhu.com/ID/HealthCareProfessionals.htm](http://www.tbdhu.com/ID/HealthCareProfessionals.htm)

#### Recommendations for Facilities:

- Review internal business continuity plans for surge capacity
- Heightened FRI screening
- Ensure routine infection control procedures are being used consistently with all patients, including:
  - Hand hygiene** before & after patient contact
  - Disinfection** of all equipment shared between patients
  - Appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  - Cleaning/disinfection** of all patient contact surfaces after patient leaves examining room.
- Ensure all settings have signage posted
- Manage patients according to MOHLTC guidelines

#### Additional Information:

Additional MOHLTC resources for H1N1 influenza are available at:  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu\\_09/provider/default.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html)