

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

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Situation Update

On Nov 19, there were 25 patients in SHR acute care beds with confirmed H1N1. Seven of the 25 were in ICU. Overall census and acuity in the adult ICUs is increasing. Earlier this week total Emergency Department visits in Saskatoon were down to 293 as compared to 386 on Nov 10. The rate of patients presenting to Emergency with ILI has decreased to 16% from 23%. The Influenza Assessment Centre at St. Paul's saw a high of 40 patients earlier this week, but numbers at that site are also decreasing.

- **Thank you to Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and their Staff** – We believe that the noticeable drop in cases in the Emergency Departments and Influenza Assessment Centre is due in part to the tremendous effort of our primary care providers. It is evident there is still a significant number of patients with ILI in the community, but these patients are being screened by phone and seen in clinics and offices. We sincerely thank all our physicians, nurse practitioners and their staff for the good work they are doing under these challenging circumstances. We would like to hear from offices and clinics that are having difficulty coping with the volume of ILI patients. Please email or call Lois Spizawka at: 655-8410.
- **Stage 2 Compensation for Family Physicians** – As indicated in a previous bulletin, family physicians may choose to utilize the hourly billing rate in lieu of fee-for service as outlined in the Ministry of Health / SMA compensation document for time specifically blocked off to assess ILI patients. These hours should be invoiced to the Region. The compensation document and invoice template are available on our Physician Pandemic information website: http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/pandemic/physician_%20information.htm For more information please email or call Lois Spizawka at 655-8410.
- **Infection Control Kits** – We understand more boxes of infection control supplies are on their way from the Ministry of Health. These kits are earmarked for primary care offices and clinics. We will be delivering up to two kits per physician once they arrive. Please call Kerri Cryderman at 655-1248 if you wish to request additional kits or if you cannot take any more kits. Also let Lois Spizawka know if you require more infection control posters or other printed material.
- **Public immunization** – For the week of November 22nd to 29th public clinics will be running Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon (closed Tuesday). Rural clinics are also scheduled. Immunization is currently being provided for the previously identified at-risk groups. **The clinics will be open to everyone in the general public starting Wednesday, November 25th.** Seasonal influenza vaccine will also be offered to the traditional at-risk groups starting on the 25th. Clinics will be scheduled in the coming days at various schools, U of S and SIAST. Please see the following website for more details: <http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/pandemic/clinics.htm>
- **Physician Pandemic Information Website** – These Bulletins and other relevant documents can be found at: http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/pandemic/physician_%20information.htm. This link is also accessible from the SMA's H1N1 information web page by clicking on "Saskatoon" on the map.