

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Medical & Practitioner Staff Bulletin #13 Thursday December 3rd, 2009

Dr. Penny Davis (SRMA) & Dr. David Poulin (SHR)

Situation Improving Overall, but Critical Care Still Very Busy with pH1N1 Cases

ILI continues at a low rate of just over 3% of all ED visits. Currently there are 18 patients in hospital with confirmed pH1N1, including 8 who are in ICU. The total patient census in adult ICU over the past few days has been as high as 30 as compared to an average of 21 patients at the same time last year. Two pH1N1 related deaths have occurred within the past few days in Saskatoon, one patient being from SHR and one from out-of-region. While the situation is easing overall, there are still cases presenting in the community and a significant number of very ill patients in ICU. Immunization of health care workers and the general public is still very important, as is the maintenance of appropriate screening and infection control practices.

- **Stage 2 ending** – Based on the reduction of ILI cases presenting to Emergency Departments and Physician clinics, the Stage 2 phase is coming to an end in SHR. Effective at midnight on Sunday December 6th, Family Physicians are no longer being asked to block time to assess ILI patients. The special hourly rate in lieu of fee-for-service to assess ILI patients will no longer apply after December 6th. Offices that have provided block time up to that point are asked to submit their invoice to Lois Spizawka by fax at 655-7961. The compensation document and invoice template are available on our Physician Pandemic information website: http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/pandemic/physician_%20information.htm.
- **Infection Control Kits** – Boxes of infection control supplies for clinics and offices from the Ministry of Health have arrived. Unless otherwise advised, we will be delivering up to two kits per physician over the next few days. Please call Kerri Cryderman at 655-1248 if you wish to request additional kits or if you cannot take any more kits. Specialists and other community based practitioners may also request kits.
- **Public immunization** – Mass immunization clinics in Saskatoon and rural locations will end December 19th. A detailed list of clinics dates, times and locations will follow in the next Bulletin. A process for ongoing pH1N1 immunization at public health offices will be in place after December 19th. Second doses of pH1N1 will be available at the public clinics starting Monday December 7th for children age 6 months to less than 3 years and for children 3 years to less than 10 years with high risk medical conditions. A number of Family Physician offices who normally provide seasonal influenza immunization are now receiving pH1N1 vaccine, as are a number of third party providers.
- **Health Care Worker immunization** – Physicians and other health care workers can obtain pH1N1 immunization at the public clinics. In Saskatoon, immunization is also available by appointment at hospital OH&S offices Monday to Friday 0730-1600. Please call: RUH 655-1387; SCH 655- 8040; SPH 655- 5495 to schedule an appointment.
- **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 SHR public pandemic website and from the SMA H1N1 information web page by clicking on “Saskatoon” on the map.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT LOIS SPIZAWKA, MEDICAL AFFAIRS AT 655-8410
lois.spizawka@saskatoonhealthregion.ca