



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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Health Care Provider:

There has been recent widespread influenza (flu) activity across Manitoba. H3N2 influenza A is the dominant strain circulating at this time.

A significant proportion of this year's H3N2 influenza A isolates have molecular characteristics consistent with antigenic drift away from the strain used in vaccine development. Preliminary data suggests reduced vaccine effectiveness.

All H3N2 strains tested to date have been sensitive to the antiviral drugs: oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Health care providers can continue to offer flu vaccine to all Manitobans at no charge. An annual flu vaccine is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts.

Manitoba Health, Health Living and Seniors (MHLS) encourages providers to refer to the most recent **Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI) guidelines for the use of antiviral drugs for influenza**, available at:
<http://www.ammi.ca/guidelines/>.

Regularly updated **2014/15 influenza epidemiology in Manitoba** is available at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html>.

Manitoba's Communicable Disease Management Protocol for Influenza can be found at:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influenza1.pdf>.

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
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"Original signed by"

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