

Hospitals, Health Care Providers, Community Health Centres, Community Care Access Centres and Pharmacists

Roles and Responsibilities during an Influenza Pandemic

(as outlined in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Tri-County Pandemic Influenza Plan, April 2009)

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Preparedness

Surveillance

- Look for unusual clinical presentations and order viral testing
- Utilize FRI Screening Tool as directed by MOHLTC –monitor those with respiratory tract infections and collect specimens on those meeting the case definition
- Obtain specimens from travelers and family/close contacts of travelers returning from endemic areas with clinically compatible signs and symptoms
- Report those with positive travel history or clusters of FRI to Health Unit
- Report staff absentee rate >10%

Communications

- Review internal communication plan
- Communicate the importance of planning for alternative childcare arrangements

Vaccine Management

- Continue to increase the use of the influenza vaccine (staff and patients)
- Offer pneumococcal vaccine to high-risk patients
- Maintain lists of high-risk patients and their pneumococcal immunization status
- Update lists of priority groups

Antiviral Management

- Designate individual to order antiviral medication
- Monitor adverse effects and report to Health Canada

Infection Prevention and Control & Public Health Measures

- Create/review policy and procedure for infection prevention and control and public health measures
- Apply infection prevention and control procedures in the workplace
- Ensure personal protective equipment is available to staff
- Provide infection prevention and control inservice to health care providers
- Prepare to increase levels of infection prevention and control according to MOHLTC directives

Health Services Emergency Planning and Response

- Develop and test internal pandemic plans
- Identify sites for assessment, treatment and referral services, establish linkages between health care providers and prepare for them to become operational
- Ensure accurate inventory of essential staff
- Ensure plans and logistics are in place to manage overflow

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Response

Surveillance

- Enhance surveillance in family practices and emergency departments
- Obtain viral specimens from patients with clinically compatible signs and symptoms
- Enhance surveillance for outbreaks in institutions
- Use web-based surveillance system to report ILI (when developed)
- Monitor antiviral uptake

Communications

- Ensure that staff are familiar with agency's communication strategies
- Provide clear communications to patients and families re: visiting protocols and other infection prevention and control procedures
- Ensure that external messaging is in accordance with the Health Unit's information
- Daily communication with LGL Health Unit

Vaccine Management

- Update list of essential staff
- Assist with administering vaccine once available based on priority groups
- Submit vaccination records to Health Unit

Antiviral Management

- Distribute/dispense antiviral medications according to MOHLTC protocols
- Pharmacists and 'flu' sites may store and dispense antiviral meds according to MOHLTC protocols

Infection Prevention and Control & Public Health Measures

- Intensify infection prevention and control procedures as required
- Ensure that the most up-to-date directives are in place

Health Services Emergency Planning and Response

- Activate internal pandemic/emergency response plan
- Prepare to open Pandemic Flu Assessment Services in your community
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