



- Please bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 1 July 2009

Contact telephone number: **8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)**

Influenza H1N1 09 Update

This Public Health Information provides an overview of the global, national and South Australian situation, along with updated information for the Protect phase of the pandemic response.

Epidemiology

- WHO has reported 72,639 cases globally.
- Over 1000 cases in Mexico, USA, Canada, Argentina, Chile, UK, China (including Hong Kong), Japan, Thailand and Australia.
- In Australia, 4,090 confirmed cases, 262 persons hospitalised (total) and 7 deaths.
- In South Australia, 377 confirmed cases, 18 hospitalised (total) and no deaths in SA residents. One reported death in SA was a West Australian resident.
- During the same time, 695 cases of seasonal influenza notified in SA (almost all Influenza A).
- Age distribution of notified cases of H1N1 09 in SA: distinct peak in 5 to 29 year age range, with more males than females. Fewer cases in children < 5 years and adults > 30 years.
- Less than 2% of notified cases in people 60 years of age and over.

Clinical picture

- For most people, globally, in Australia and in South Australia, a mild infection.
- Some cases of moderate to severe illness or complications from influenza requiring hospitalisation, especially in people with underlying medical conditions.

Testing and Treatment during the Protect Phase

- Focus on testing symptomatic people with moderate to severe illness, pregnant women (especially in the 2nd and 3rd trimester) and those with underlying medical conditions.
- Offer antiviral medication to these people if started within 48 hours of onset of symptoms.
- Recommended treatment course is one 75 mg capsule twice daily for 5 days. Repeat prescriptions for treatment are not indicated.
- GPs can write antiviral prescriptions (National stockpile) for confirmed cases (marked **SA SP**) - dispensed from designated pharmacies (see Public Health Alert of 18 June).
- Appropriate prescribing essential - already a report from Denmark of oseltamivir resistance to H1N1 09.

Notification of Influenza infection

- Influenza (seasonal influenza and H1N1 09) is a notifiable disease in South Australia.
- Urgent telephone notification not required, except for suspected or confirmed cases in high risk settings, such as residential care facilities.
- Fax completed *Report of Notifiable Disease or Related Death* form to CDCB on 82267187.
- To provide information required by WHO and Commonwealth, CDCB is developing a short form which will be posted to doctors who have ordered laboratory tests which return an Influenza A positive result (seasonal Influenza A and H1N1 09). A reply paid envelope will be provided to facilitate return. The cooperation of doctors in this enhanced surveillance will be invaluable in guiding the continued response to the global H1N1 09 pandemic.

Please also note that the Doctor's Hotline 1300 358 250 is no longer operating. Doctors can call the CDCB on 8226 7177 (24hrs/7days) for further information or advice.

Dr Ann Koehler – Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch

Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.