

Memorandum

Date: October 18, 2023

To: Pharmacy Services; Communicable Disease Control; Environmental Public Health; Infection Prevention and Control; Workplace Health and Safety; Occupational Health and Safety

From: Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health, Central Zone

RE: Provision of Antivirals During Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) Outbreaks in Acute Care Sites

When an outbreak of ILI is confirmed as influenza or will be presumptively managed as such, a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) will recommend prophylactic antiviral medication for all exposed asymptomatic patients and unimmunized staff. Prophylaxis will continue until at least 7 days following the onset of illness in the last case. Prescriptions are normally written for 10 days with a single refill for 5 days.

Physicians will be responsible for prescribing for their patients. Ill patients may be prescribed treatment doses. AHS Workplace Health and Safety/ Covenant Occupational Health and Safety will oversee the process of ensuring that unimmunized staff obtain prescriptions for prophylactic antivirals. Provision of the first dose for unimmunized staff may occur through your pharmacy; remaining doses are expected to be provided by Community Pharmacies. Accordingly, community pharmacies in the general vicinity of outbreaks will receive fax notification from the Central Zone MOH (weekdays only).

Dosing information is available at: www.rochecanada.com/pms/tamiflu/tamiflu_pm_e.pdf. Additional, detailed information on the use of antivirals for treatment and prophylaxis is available at the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada website (see Resources section and Influenza subsection): <https://ammi.ca/en/resources/>.

Additional outbreak management resources are available on the AHS MOH Central Zone website at www.ahs.ca/czmoh.

If you require further information, please contact Communicable Disease Control Outbreak Intake:

- phone **1-888-522-1919** (state Central Zone)
- email cd_outbreak@ahs.ca (include the exposure investigation (EI) number).

Thank you for your attention and assistance.