

June 2005

What is Ontario doing to prepare for & respond to an influenza pandemic

This fact sheet provides basic information for health care workers.

We do not know when a pandemic flu outbreak will happen, but the government and our health partners have a plan in readiness for a pandemic. This plan adopts lessons learned from past health emergencies including SARS.

Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- The Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) was released in June 2005; an earlier version was released in May 2004.
- Because viruses do not stop at borders, planning continues at all levels of government, with key health care provider organizations and at your local health care facility.
- Ontario has purchased a stockpile of antiviral drugs for treatment and prophylaxis.
- Ontario has plans in place to acquire, store and distribute vaccine as the Federal Government makes it available, with priority given to health care workers and our emergency responders.
- Ontario is identifying critical medical supplies and establishing reliable and secure purchasing, storage and distribution systems.

- Based on consultation with the health care sector, the government providing guidance to local health care providers and facilities about services to be maintained in a pandemic while allowing the health care system to focus on care of those ill with pandemic influenza.

In Responding to a Pandemic, we will:

- Ensure that providers and the public are informed about the pandemic, how to help protect themselves against it and what to do if they become ill
- Make good use of existing supplies of antivirals to assist in slowing the spread of disease until a vaccine becomes available
- Track immunizations
- Put into action the medical supply and distribution system to ensure that scarce resources are appropriately distributed across the province

For more information

www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/emu.mn.html

Or call toll free:

Health Care Provider's Hotline 1-866-212-2272