

Important Health Notice

Information for Healthcare Professionals UPDATE

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Page 1 of 1

This Important Health Notice (IHN) provides the following:

- Update to the H1N1 (human swine flu) influenza situation
- Directions to a guidance document for the Long-Term Care sector

Status Update:

The World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic threat level remains unchanged at phase five.

As of May 1st, there are 14 lab-confirmed cases in Ontario. Three are in York, six are in Durham, one is in Peel and four are in Toronto.

With one exception, all of these cases have a travel history to Mexico. All of the cases are mild and are recovering at home. The case without a travel history to Mexico is a household contact to a confirmed case with travel history to Mexico.

Guidance for Influenza-like illness (ILI) Management in Long-Term Care (LTC)

The document “Guidance for Influenza-like illness (ILI) Management in Long-Term Care (LTC)” is now posted on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s (MOHLTC) website.

The Long-Term Care guidelines are current as of May 1, 2009 and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Highlights:

- The WHO pandemic level is unchanged – Phase 5

What’s new:

- **Guidance for Influenza-like illness (ILI) Management in Long-Term Care (LTC) is now posted on the MOHLTC website**

The document provides guidance on preventive measures, such as screening for respiratory symptoms, signage, resident management and infection prevention and control practices.

The guidelines are posted on the MOHLTC website:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html>

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