

October 27, 2009

**Child Care Providers:**

We would like to provide you with an update on the pandemic H1N1 influenza situation.

Manitoba is now in the second wave of the pandemic and more cases of pandemic H1N1 influenza are expected. While it is difficult to accurately predict what will happen in this wave, during the first wave most Manitobans who were exposed to the virus did not require specific medical care.

It is recommended that child care providers and children follow basic precautions such as cough and sneeze etiquette and regular hand washing to prevent the spread of infection. Child care providers are encouraged to include infection prevention as part of the early learning experience, including placing age appropriate messaging about cough and sneeze etiquette and hand washing in a variety of locations throughout the facility and ensuring that hand hygiene supplies such as soap and water are readily available.

If someone in your workplace/ child care program has flu symptoms, they should be sent home as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Whenever feasible, children with flu symptoms who are waiting to be picked up should wait in an area away from others until they can go home. Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette practices are also recommended.

Manitoba Health and Healthy Living (MHHL) also asks child care programs to establish a mechanism to report instances of unusually high absenteeism among children or to raise any child care-specific public health questions or concerns with the public health nurse at their local community public health office.

We have also included the documents:

- *H1N1 Flu: Background and Interim Guidance for Child Care Programs*
- *H1N1 Flu: Questions and Answers for Child Care Providers and Parents*

that we hope you will find useful in your own discussions and in communications with staff and parents.

For the latest information on pandemic H1N1 flu, please visit: [www.manitoba.ca/flu](http://www.manitoba.ca/flu).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Arlene Wilgosh  
Deputy Minister  
Health & Healthy Living

Original signed by

Martin Billinkoff  
Deputy Minister  
Family Services and Housing