



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

December 16, 2016

Health Care Provider Alert: Influenza Activity

The Northwestern Health Unit has identified the first laboratory confirmed case of influenza for the 2016-2017 season. The confirmed case originates in the Rainy River District and the type is Influenza A (H3).

Actions:

- Encourage influenza immunization, especially for people at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization and also for people capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk.
- Consider influenza testing for febrile respiratory illness patients who are at high risk for complications from influenza.
- It is reasonable to consider antiviral treatment, where appropriate, on clinical grounds prior to laboratory confirmation. For more information on the use of antiviral medications for influenza:
https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Antiviral_Medication_Influenza_Fact_sheet_2016.pdf
- Please communicate with the NWHU about any detected influenza-like illness symptoms in hospital patients or LTCH residents to facilitate early and expedited testing and effective control of spread.

For further information please contact:

Donna Stanley
Manager, Infectious Diseases
Northwestern Health Unit
76D Van Horne Avenue
Dryden, ON P8N 2B2
(807) 223-3301 extension 3520
dstanley@nwhu.on.ca

Dr. Kit Young-Hoon, Medical Officer of Health
Northwestern Health Unit
210 First Street, North
Kenora, ON P9N 2K4
(807) 468-3147
(807) 468-7109 (after hours)