

SUBJECT: **Influenza Antiviral Prophylaxis During Facility Outbreaks**

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To: Pharmacists

From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

- **Influenza activity across WDG is high.**
- **Antiviral prophylaxis for staff is a key outbreak control measure.**
- **Affected staff will receive letters from WDGPH that are intended to support pharmacist prescribing for facility outbreak-based prophylaxis.**

Influenza activity across Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) has been elevated this season, with indicators demonstrating sustained and widespread transmission driven by influenza A. This has led to a large increase in the number of influenza-related outbreaks in congregate settings.

To facilitate timely access to antiviral prophylaxis, WDGPH is providing facilities in outbreak with letters that staff may present to a Class A pharmacist. These letters confirm that WDGPH has declared an influenza outbreak and direct the individual to obtain influenza prophylaxis as part of outbreak management. **These letters are intended to document the individual's eligibility and thereby support pharmacists' assessment, prescribing, and dispensing.**

Therapeutic assessments related to oseltamivir prescriptions are publicly funded for eligible individuals with a valid OHIP card or ODB number. Dispensing fees are also covered for ODB recipients using the appropriate Limited Use codes.

During an influenza outbreak, WDG Public Health recommends antiviral prophylaxis for staff working in the outbreak area, in alignment with current Ministry criteria and WDGPH guidance provided directly to facilities.

This season, WDGPH recommends prophylaxis for staff according to the following criteria:

- For outbreaks known or likely to be caused by **influenza A(H3N2)**, prophylaxis is recommended for all staff **regardless of their influenza vaccination status**;
- For all other influenza outbreaks, prophylaxis is recommended only for staff not vaccinated against influenza.

As needed, pharmacists may also consult the daily [Outbreak Bulletins](#) posted to the WDGPH website, which provide current information on declared outbreaks across congregate settings.

For more information, please contact:

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