



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/05/2011	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
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**Healthcare Provider Update
for the 2011–2012 Influenza Season**

Influenza activity remained very low in Washington throughout the summer with only rare sporadic infections detected. The intensity and timing of the influenza season can't be predicted. The influenza season for 2011-2012 is October-May. During the past several months, three influenza viruses have been circulating in the world: influenza A (2009 H1N1), influenza A (H3N2), and influenza B.

This document contains:

- 1. 2011–2012 Influenza vaccination recommendations.**
- 2. Reporting requirements for the 2011–2012 influenza season.**
- 3. Criteria for influenza and oseltamivir resistance testing at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories.**

Influenza Vaccination

Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its complications. Annual influenza vaccination is currently recommended for **everyone 6 months of age and older**. It can take up to two weeks to develop a full immune response. Encourage your patients to get vaccinated now.

To develop adequate immune response, children 6 months through 8 years of age who did not receive at least 1 dose of the 2010-2011 influenza vaccine should receive 2 doses of the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine separated by at least 4 weeks.

CDC flow chart to determine if 1 or 2 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine are necessary:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/imzupdate/downloads/doses-algorithm.pdf

CDC comprehensive information regarding influenza vaccination:
www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination.

ACIP 2011 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6033a3.htm?s_cid=mm6033a3_w.

Influenza Reporting Requirements

Report the following to GCHD by calling [509-766-7960](tel:509-766-7960) or the after-hours phone [509-398-2083](tel:509-398-2083)

- Within 3 days** - Laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths in persons of all ages.
Pediatric report form: www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/cdc-pedfludeath.pdf.
Adult report form: www.doh.wa.gov/notify/forms/influenza.pdf

- **Immediately** - Outbreaks of influenza-like illness or laboratory-confirmed influenza in an institutional setting. (e.g., long term care facilities)
- **Immediately** - Unexplained critical illness or death in persons < 50 years-old.

Influenza specimens from deceased patients should be submitted to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories (WAPHL) for testing free-of-charge. **Please report cases that fit into one of the criteria listed above by calling the Grant County Health District at 509-766-7960** and facilitate the transport of the specimen to WAPHL for flu testing and/or subtyping. GCHD requests that the *Influenza Case Reporting* form (www.doh.wa.gov/notify/forms/influenza.pdf) be completed on all lab confirmed flu deaths and **faxed to 509-764-2813**.

Influenza Testing at the Washington State Public Health Laboratories (WAPHL)

The Washington State Public Health Laboratories (WAPHL) performs influenza testing, influenza subtyping, and oseltamivir resistance testing primarily for surveillance purposes. However, healthcare providers can request testing for the following with approval from the Grant County Health District.

WAPHL will perform influenza testing and subtyping on specimens from:

1. Deceased patients suspected to have influenza.
2. Patients suspected to be infected with a novel strain, including H5N1 influenza.
3. Patients associated with outbreaks.

WAPHL will perform oseltamivir resistance testing for clinical care purposes on specimens from:

1. Patients who develop laboratory-confirmed influenza while taking antiviral prophylaxis.
2. Severely immunocompromised patients with prolonged excretion of influenza virus despite antiviral treatment.
3. Patients in intensive care units with prolonged excretion of influenza virus despite antiviral treatment.

All specimens must be approved by the Grant County Health District prior to submission. Additional information regarding collecting, storing, shipping and testing specimens for influenza at WAPHL can be found at: www.doh.wa.gov/notify/other/speccollecttrans.pdf

Resources

WA ST Department of Health - Influenza Surveillance and Reporting Guidelines
www.doh.wa.gov/notify/nc/influenza.htm

CDC - Comprehensive information regarding the prevention and control of influenza with vaccines
www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination

CDC - Diagnostic testing, antiviral medication, and infection control
www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals

Flu Activity

Washington State: www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/epidemiology/cd/fluupdate.pdf

National: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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