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HEALTH ADVISORY *10/8/2009*

Influenza Reporting and Testing Recommendations for the 2009-2010 Flu Season

The influenza activity in our community has certainly increased over the last few weeks. Emergency Departments have noticed an increase in traffic due to Influenza Like Illnesses (ILI) and school absentee rates have been steadily rising with many reporting greater than 10%.

The Health District is communicating regularly with the Infection Control staff at all 4 hospitals and the health care providers in our community to disseminate important information regarding testing and treatment of H1N1. The following links provide good information that may be helpful for you and your clients also.

Department of Health H1N1 testing algorithm:

www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/sflu-testalg.pdf

CDC Guidelines for use of anti-viral medications:

www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/recommendations.htm

The Health District is concerned about the availability of anti-virals in our community and have not been aware of any shortages at this point. Please respond to the following questions either by fax (509) 460-4515 or e-mail heatherh@bfhd.wa.gov

How many doses of the following medications do you currently have in stock?

Tamiflu: _____

Tamiflu oral suspension: _____

Relenza: _____

Are you having any difficulty with restocking your supply? Yes No