



# URBAN PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK

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## RÉSEAU CANADIEN POUR LA SANTÉ URBAINE

SECRETARIAT:

June 12, 2009

DR GERRY PREDY

CAPITAL HEALTH

SUITE 300

10216 - 124 STREET,

EDMONTON AB

T5N 4A3

Dr. David Butler-Jones  
Chief Public Health Officer  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
130 Colonnade Road A.L. 6501H  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K9

**RE: Influenza A H1N1 (SOIV)**

Dear Dr. Butler-Jones:

Members of the Urban Public Health Network (UPHN) met recently to discuss our experience, so far, with the emergence of the novel H1N1 strain of influenza. We appreciated the work that was done by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) staff working in concert with the Chief Medical Officers of Health from the provinces and territories. We note that the virus continues to circulate across the country and continues to cause mild infections in most people who contract it. However, we recognize that its behavior and distribution may change in the coming months. From our perspective there are a number of issues which F/P/T processes need to address to help us with our ongoing preparation. These include:

- Regular and timely updates from national working groups including the Public Health Measures Advisory Group, Vaccine Working Group and the Surveillance and Epidemiology Group. It would be helpful for us to know the membership of these groups as well as the membership and mandate of any new working groups or committees created. We also suggest that the presence of local public health Medical Officers of Health on these groups can provide an important frontline perspective on emerging issues. Communicating the organization and workplan priorities of the PHAC response team would be useful to help those of us in the field know what messages and protocols are being prepared.
- Consistent information about use of masks and other personal protective equipment, about length of time of incubation and isolation periods and about who should be tested.
- Clear and timely data on the severity and distribution of illness.
- Decision on whether or not any federal assistance will be available to local jurisdictions needing assistance in handling outbreaks (e.g. isolated or rural communities).

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We know that the staff of PHAC will be working on these and other questions in the coming weeks. We are committed to working with you and our provincial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure the best possible public health response to influenza in the months to come.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Predy, MD, FRCPC

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