



Health Advisory: Drifted Influenza A (H3N2) Viruses in Minnesota (#1460719)

Minnesota Department of Health Thurs Dec 4 13:05 CDT 2014

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospital and clinics: Please distribute to healthcare providers.

Healthcare providers:

- Promote influenza vaccine as it can still provide some cross-protection against drifted influenza viruses and may help prevent hospitalization and death
- Consider neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications (oseltamivir and zanamivir) in light of the possibility of decreased protection from vaccination
- Sign up to receive the MDH Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Report at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/stats/index.html>
- Promote other prevention strategies: hand washing with soap and water, covering your cough, and staying home when sick

Influenza activity is increasing nationally and in Minnesota, with influenza A (H3N2) being the most commonly identified strain.

So far this season, approximately half of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses collected and analyzed in the United States are antigenically different (drifted) from the H3N2 vaccine virus.

At this time, it is unknown whether the current influenza A (H3N2) strain circulating in Minnesota is antigenically similar or different from the H3N2 vaccine virus. The Minnesota Department of Health will continue to monitor disease trends through a variety of surveillance activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a health advisory this morning summarizing these findings. For more information regarding this health advisory please go to: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00374.asp>

For more information regarding influenza in Minnesota please visit:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/> or call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651.201.5414 or 1-877-676-5414