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Information Previously Distributed

To be listed on the Community Services
Agenda 7 Oct 99

DATE 15 September 1999

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Associate Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **BIG SHOT CHALLENGE / DÉFI-ÉCHEC À LA GRIPPE
INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR STAFF OF
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES**

Last season, Ottawa-Carleton had a second widespread, approximately 12 weeks long outbreak of A/Sydney/5/97-like (H3N2) influenza likely affecting 25% of the population among all age groups. There were laboratory confirmed outbreaks in 22 nursing homes and residential care facilities with 16 related deaths, compared to 21 outbreaks with 45 deaths the year before. The difference in death rate shows the value of a vaccine that closely matched the circulating virus last winter. By contrast the previous winter's vaccine didn't match well as Sydney influenza made its first appearance after vaccine production had begun.

This wasn't the only recent example of the toll influenza can take. Ottawa-Carleton and the rest of the Champlain District Health Council area, (Pembroke through to Cornwall), rated 12 among 16 major Canadian centres for winter 1996/97 hospitalizations due to pneumonia and influenza among seniors, (*Maclean's* June 7, 1999 Health Report based on data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information). Victoria had the lowest rate with Montreal second.

As one means to improve the situation, the Region of Ottawa-Carleton Health Department, Homes for the Aged in Ottawa-Carleton, Ontario Nursing Home Association (Region 2), Ontario Residential Care Association (Region 2) and the Ottawa-Carleton Community Care Access Centre are encouraging all long-term care facilities and health care (staffing) agencies to participate in the 1999 BIG SHOT CHALLENGE/DÉFI-ÉCHEC À LA GRIPPE! While facilities have always tried to immunize residents against influenza, the value of staff immunization has now been confirmed by a randomized controlled study in England where immunizing 61% of staff reduced the influenza death rate in residents by 41% as a result of herd immunity, (J. Potter *et al.* *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* 1997; 175:1-6).

Thus the goal is to immunize at least 90% of residents and 70% of employees, contract staff, students doing placement work, volunteers and health professionals coming into homes for the aged, nursing homes, chronic care facilities/units and retirement homes where care/assistance in the activities of daily living is provided. This applies to all employees etc. who may have the potential for acquiring or transmitting influenza during the course of their work, and not just to those employees providing direct resident care. Last season, 36% of facility staff were

immunized on average. However, 10 facilities did reach or exceed the 90% and 70% marks. This season, it should be feasible for every facility to do so.

Facilities, health care (staffing) agencies and training programs providing staff for long-term care facilities which reach these influenza immunization goals will be publicly commended and given awards (plaque suitable for hanging and which can be updated each year) at a Regional Community Services Committee meeting in January, 2000.

In addition, the Health Department has strongly recommended to all facilities that in the event of an influenza outbreak, only persons who are immunized or taking amantadine (an anti-viral medication effective in influenza A outbreaks) should care for residents in the facility, (or affected part of very large facilities). In the unlikely event that someone insists on working when they should not, the Health Department will meet with the person and if necessary use Section 22 of the *Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act* to order him/her not to work in any long-term care facility in the region with an influenza outbreak.

Attention All Staff!/A tout le personnel, Annex A, is an example of several flyers that have been developed to help promote the program and may be viewed at www.rmoc.on.ca/healthsante. The Region of Ottawa-Carleton FLU INFORMATION LINE, 724-4228, will also be open from September 27th through November 12th—the prime influenza immunization period.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Several meetings have been held since April with relevant associations and organizations, individual facilities and health care (staffing) agencies, post-secondary educational institutions and representatives of labour unions in order to develop a program with widespread support.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications that will result from this memorandum at this time.

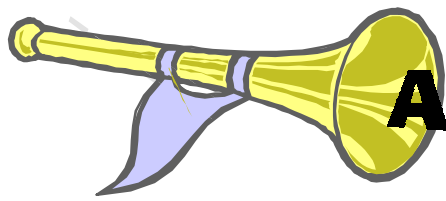
CONCLUSION

Ottawa-Carleton long-term care facilities have the potential to double staff influenza immunization rates this year and to reduce the unacceptably high resident mortality rate due to influenza.

Approved by

Dr. Robert Cushman, Medical Officer of Health

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Attention All Staff!

News Flash!

Influenza (Flu) Immunization:

- ☛ Protects Yourself and Others
- ☛ Saves Lives !

☛ Did you know that close to 6,500 Canadians die each year from the respiratory flu and pneumonia? This combination is the fifth leading killer of adults over the age of 65.

☛ Benefits of Staff Immunization:

- ✓ Reduces the influenza death rate of residents by 41%;
- ✓ Decreases the spread of the respiratory flu virus in your facility;
- ✓ Decreases spread of virus to family & friends;
- ✓ Reduces staff sick-leave by 40%;
- ✓ Prevents the loss of income;
- ✓ Prevents the loss of leisure time with family and friends.

☛ Staff and residents need a flu shot every year to fight the expected viruses. It provides good protection for 70% of healthy adults but only 30 to 40% for frail elderly who have a weaker immune system.

☛ It cannot cause influenza and does not weaken the immune system.

Take Care!

Have the flu shot!

Save Lives!



Region of Ottawa-Carleton
FLU INFORMATION LINE

724-4228

(September 27 - November 12, 1999)

www.rmoc.on.ca/healthsante



Ottawa - Carleton
Community Care Access Centre
Centre d'accès aux soins communautaires
d'Ottawa - Carleton



A tout le personnel

NOUVELLE D'INTÉRÊT

La vaccination contre la grippe :

☛ Protégez-vous et les autres

☛ Saviez-vous que chaque année près de 6 500 Canadiennes et Canadiens meurent à la suite de complications de troubles respiratoires liées à la grippe et à la pneumonie? La grippe est la cinquième cause de mortalité chez les personnes âgées de 65 ans et plus.

☛ Avantages de l'immunization du personnel :

- ✓ Contribue à réduire de
- ✓ 41 % le taux de mortalité attribuable aux effets de la grippe chez les résidents.
- ✓ Réduit la propagation du virus grippal dans votre établissement de travail.
- ✓ Réduit les possibilités de transmission du virus aux membres de la famille et aux amis.
- ✓ Réduit de 40 % le taux de journées de maladie prises en raison de la grippe.
- ✓ Préviend la perte de revenu.
- ✓ Préviend la perte de temps de loisirs avec la famille et les amis.

☛ Le personnel et les résidents doivent recevoir annuellement vaccin contre la grippe pour combattre les virus prévus.

Chez un adulte en santé taux de protection contre grippe peut aller jusqu'à % grâce à la vaccination Cependant, chez une personne âgée dont le système immunitaire est faible, le taux de protection varie de 30 à 40 %.

☛ Elle ne peut pas donner grippe et ne réduit pas l'efficacité du système immunitaire.

Prenez soin de vous !

Faites-vous vacciner dès aujourd'hui !

Sauvez des vies



Région d'Ottawa-Carleton
LIGNE D'INFORMATION
SUR LA GRIPPE

724-4228

(Du 27 septembre au 12 novembre 1999)

www.rmoc.on.ca/healthsante





Ottawa-Carleton
Community Care Access Centre
Centre d'accès aux soins communautaires
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