



British Columbia Perinatal Health Program



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October 6, 2009

Attention:
Health Authority CEOs
Health Authority Medical Health Officers
Maternity Care Providers
Maternity/Labour and Delivery units

Dear Colleagues:

The risk of severe influenza illness in pregnant women has been documented previously and pregnant women are considered a high risk group during the current H1N1 influenza pandemic. The impact of the H1N1 on pregnant women and their fetuses and newborns is not well understood. The Flu Watch program collects data for lab-confirmed H1N1 cases only but has limited perinatal information and does not include pregnancy outcomes.

The British Columbia Perinatal Health Program is collaborating with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in an initiative to collect additional information related to H1N1 influenza and influenza-like illness during pregnancy. Data about the illness, the treatment and vaccinations will be collected and correlated with pregnancy outcome data as an addendum to our usual data collection. We hope to have this collection done in a timely fashion so that we can contribute to the information offered to practitioners and patients during the pandemic.

The participation by practitioners in your health authority is crucial to timely surveillance of H1N1 in pregnancy. Data collection will occur between November 15th, 2009 and November 30st, 2010. All women who deliver in hospital or at home during this time period will be included in BCPHP's influenza data collection. A copy of the Patient Surveillance Form is attached for your information; once completed the original will be sent to BCPHP with the duplicate kept on the patient chart. A detail description of the process will be sent to all facilities along with starter forms.

Please:

- Have care providers complete H1N1 information sheets on all women at the time of delivery
- Ensure that your facility has a mechanism for returning these forms to BCPHP
- Share this notice with key leaders within your organization

Sincerely,

Brenda Wagner, MD, FRCS(C)
Medical Director, BCPHP

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