



**Otago**  
**District Health Board**  
*Poari Hauora-ā-rohe ki Ōtāgo*



**Southland District**  
**HEALTH BOARD**  
*Te Poari Hauora o te Rohe o Murihiku*

**To: Staff at Otago and Southland District Health Boards  
External Stakeholders**

**Advisory 10 – 8 May 2009 at 1415hrs**

**From: District Health Board Incident Controller Pip Stewart**

**Subject: Influenza A (H1N1)**

**Note:**

**1: This advisory remains current until the situation changes or new information is made available.**

**2: All clinical teams please collect this information and subsequent information in folders. Department heads please print this information and make it visible e.g. on staff notice boards.**

As of 8 May 2009, the World Health Organisation reports a total of 2391 confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) worldwide in 24 countries with 42 deaths in Mexico and 2 in USA. We are still in phase 5 (of 6) of the pandemic alert scale but this may change should there be clear evidence of community-level transmission in countries outside North America. The planning done in recent years by many countries is now paying off and health authorities around the world are co-operating by sharing information and working collaboratively to reduce the impact of this new Influenza virus.

While clinical, laboratory and epidemiological information about this new virus is limited, it appears that most cases have been relatively mild. However influenza viruses are notoriously unpredictable and the situation could change very quickly. As no one is immune to this new virus we need to remain vigilant by keeping informed and continuing to prepare. Southern hemisphere countries face a particular challenge as we enter the usual influenza season because of the potential for viral re-assortment Enhanced surveillance will need to be continued.

To date there is no evidence of community-level transmission in New Zealand. There are 5 laboratory confirmed cases, 14 probable cases, 75 suspected cases and 459 people in isolation or quarantine who are on Tamiflu. The efforts of the Border Management teams meeting international flights around New Zealand and identifying suspected cases and quarantining their contacts is a critical factor in containing this outbreak. The co-operation of those who have been quarantined is acknowledged and we recognize the disruption this causes.

As of 8 May 2009 in Otago and Southland, there have been no confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1). Public Health South staff have managed three suspected cases and 41 contacts of suspected cases.

The DHB incident management team comprising staff from both Otago and Southland, has worked long hours in the last two weeks, reviewing and updating plans. Their focus is now the detail around requirements for Community Based Assessment Centres and hospital plans for managing a major infectious event. A

smaller incident management team lead by Public Health South will continue to manage the public health aspects of the outbreak across both Otago and Southland.

Please remember the critical role of Infection Prevention and Control. All clinical staff should take this opportunity to remind themselves about PPE technique. Also, clinical staff should be aware that clinical advisories have been issued about the diagnosis and management of suspected cases and in all instances contact the on-call Medical Officer of Health if they think a patient meets the case definition

Up-to-date national and international information is available from

[www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz)

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)