

**To: Staff at the Otago and Southland District Health Boards  
External Stakeholder Group**

**Advisory 5 - 1 May 2009 at 4.30pm**

**From: District Health Board Incident Controller Elaine Chisnall**

**Subject: Influenza A (H1N1)**

**NOTE: No information will be released during the weekend unless the situation changes.**

**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.**

The first people quarantined for influenza A (H1N1) in Otago and Southland have come out of voluntary quarantine today. Public Health South staff sincerely thanks them for their co-operation, as quarantine is an essential tool for reducing the spread of illness in the community.

Public Health South staff will continue to be in regular contact with people in quarantine.

To date, Otago and Southland is one of the few areas in the country that has no suspected cases of influenza A (H1N1). We have had contact with 31 people who were on flight NZ1 in Otago and Southland and none have shown any symptoms.

Tamiflu can be sold by community pharmacists from today to people who display symptoms of influenza-like illness. The symptoms are sudden onset of illness with fever of >38degC, sore throat, cough, headaches, body aches, chills and fatigue.

People who meet the case definition for the influenza A (H1N1) virus can expect to have viral swabs taken, go into quarantine and to be on Tamiflu. People who do not meet the case definition should not expect to be swabbed.

We encourage everyone to review and update their pandemic response plan and keep informed about H1N1. Information is available on the international web sites:

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

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

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

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

We remind everyone with concerns about H1N1 to either phone the national toll free phone line on 0800 FLULINE (0800 3585 463) or their medical centre. They should not just show up at hospitals or medical centres.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises that there is a high risk to your health in Mexico due to influenza A and advise against all tourist and other non-essential travel.