



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



## Influenza A (H1N1)

### **Media Update No 12**

**4 June 2009**

While there is concern that the increasing number of confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in Australia means it will be difficult to keep the virus out of New Zealand, Public Health South is continuing to follow national guidelines with border response teams and management of suspected cases and contacts, to lessen the risk of transmission.

“Public Health South and nursing staff have met all international flights at both Dunedin and Queenstown airports for the past six weeks to monitor passengers, and support border agencies. We will continue to do this as these strategies appear to have been successful,” said Otago and Southland Medical Officer of Health Dr Marion Poore.

“We anticipate a surge of cases in both primary and secondary health care facilities in the coming weeks and are continuing to plan for this across Otago and Southland.”

“Although the risk of community level transmission (from person to person) is growing, there is still no evidence this is happening in New Zealand and we would like to keep it that way,” said Dr Poore.

Over the past week Public Health South has managed 6 suspected cases of Influenza A (H1N1) and there are currently 5 people in quarantine or isolation.

We remind everyone with concerns about H1N1 to either phone the national toll free Healthline on 0800 611 116 or their medical centre, especially if they have travelled in the past seven days. They should not just show up at hospitals or medical centres.

**For more information today, please contact: Southland District Health Board  
Communications Officer Jo Harvey on 027 674 1758.**