



Adi M. Pour, Ph.D.
Health Director
(402) 444-7471

December 23, 2014

Re: Influenza Outbreak Guidance and CDC Toolkit

Administration & Finance
(402) 444-7216

Emergency Preparedness
(402) 444-7213

Communicable Disease
Epidemiology
(402) 444-7214

Retail Food
(402) 444-7480

Health Promotion
(402) 444-7475

Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program
(402) 444-7825

Public Health Clinic &
Immunizations
(402) 444-6163

STD Control
(402) 444-7750

Sanitation Control
(402) 444-7481

Sanitary Engineering
(402) 444-7485

WIC
(402) 444-1770

Civic Center Location
1819 Farnam Street, H01
Health Data
(402) 546-0847

Vital Statistics
(402) 444-7205

Health Center Location
4102 Woolworth Av.
Laboratory Services
(402) 444-7496

Dear Long-Term Care/Residential Facility Administrators and Directors:

The 2014-15 influenza season is here. In the last several weeks, influenza-like illness activity has been increasing in Douglas County and across the State of Nebraska. The first outbreak of influenza in a Douglas County long-term care facility has been reported. **People who have not yet been vaccinated this season should get vaccinated now, including residents, staff, and health-care personnel.** The CDC has published a tool kit to assist long-term care facilities increase influenza vaccination coverage among staff: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/>

Influenza A (H3) is the predominant circulating strain so far this season. Since October 1, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified an antigenically drifted influenza A (H3N2) strain circulating that is different from the strain of influenza A (H3N2) contained in the current 2014-15 influenza vaccine formulations. Vaccination is still recommended as it provides some protection against drifted viruses, and it can also protect against other circulating strains. The antigenically drifted strain has been detected in Douglas County this season. **The CDC recommends early treatment with neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications for treatment and prevention to influenza, as an adjunct to vaccination.**

If you would like to receive weekly influenza surveillance reports, you may subscribe to the Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) email list for health care providers and public health partners at <http://eepurl.com/31RyT>.

Please ensure that outbreaks are managed in accordance with current recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>). Daily surveillance for ILI among all new and current residents, staff, and visitors to the facility should be conducted until the end of influenza season.

If you suspect an outbreak of influenza or ILI (two or more residents with ILI), please immediately implement outbreak control measures and contact the DCHD at (402) 444-7214 for assistance and to report the outbreak.

Sincerely,

Adi M. Pour, Ph.D.
Health Director