

# DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

**DATE:** January 14, 2011



**DPHHS Subject Matter Resource:**

For more information regarding this HAN, contact:

DPHHS Epidemiology Section  
1-406-444-0273

**SUBJECT:** Influenza activity is continuing to escalate around Montana

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:**

**1-800-701-5769**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**FORWARD** to local HAN contacts

**DPHHS HAN Website:**

[www.han.mt.gov](http://www.han.mt.gov)

**INFORMATION / RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Influenza activity is continuing to escalate around the state but remains slightly below our seasonal baseline for this time of year. As of 01/14/2011 Montana has confirmed influenza activity in 15 counties, primarily in the central and western portions of the state. Our Montana Public Health Laboratory has identified three circulating influenza sub-types so far which are influenza A/H3, influenza A/H1, and Influenza B. All three appear to be well represented in the 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine. Please encourage vaccination in those individuals that have yet to be vaccinated.

**Categories of Health Alert Messages:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

# This is an official CDC HAN Info Service Message

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January 14, 2011, 13:30 PM ET (1:30 PM ET)  
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## **CDC Guidance on the Use of Influenza Antiviral Agents and Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests During the 2010-2011 Influenza Season**

### **Summary**

As influenza activity increases in the United States, clinicians are urged to consult CDC guidance on the use of influenza antiviral agents and rapid influenza diagnostic tests this season. Updated recommendations on the use of antiviral medications will be published in an upcoming Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), but an interim version of the recommendations is currently available on CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>. The updated guidance for health care professionals on the use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinician\\_guidance\\_ridt.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinician_guidance_ridt.htm). For the most recent summary of influenza activity in the United States, consult the CDC influenza surveillance report FluView at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>.

### **Recommendations**

#### Antiviral Agents Guidance:

The recommendations on the use of influenza antiviral agents contain information on treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection, and also provide a summary of the effectiveness and safety of antiviral medications. Highlights include recommendations for the following:

- 1) early empiric antiviral treatment of suspected or confirmed influenza among people with **severe, complicated, or progressive illness or those hospitalized for influenza**;
- 2) early empiric antiviral treatment of suspected or confirmed influenza among people at [higher risk](#) for influenza complications;
- 3) use of either oseltamivir or zanamivir for influenza A and B treatment or chemoprophylaxis, and recommendations *not* to use rimantadine or amantadine as influenza antiviral medications due to high levels of resistance to these medications among circulating influenza A viruses;
- 4) use of antiviral medications among children younger than 1 year of age;
- 5) use of local data on influenza virus circulation and influenza testing of respiratory specimens from patients with suspected influenza, when available, to help inform clinicians about influenza circulation; and
- 6) consideration of antiviral treatment for any previously healthy, non high-risk symptomatic outpatient with confirmed or suspected influenza, based upon clinical judgment, if treatment can be initiated within 48 hours of illness onset.

#### Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests Guidance:

Recommendations on the use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests are available to help guide clinical decisions and to determine if outbreaks of respiratory illness in closed settings are due to influenza virus infection. The guidance also provides information for interpreting rapid diagnostic test results. Highlights include recommendations for the following:

- 1) use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests when a positive result will change the clinical management of patients or change outbreak control strategies in a population, especially if the setting includes hospitalized patients or persons at high risk for influenza-associated complications;

- 2) avoiding the use of negative rapid test results to guide decisions regarding treating patients with influenza antiviral medications due to the suboptimal sensitivity of rapid tests;
- 3) evaluation of rapid diagnostic test results in the context of other available clinical and epidemiological information; and
- 4) consideration of further influenza laboratory testing in the following circumstances:
  - a. when a patient tests negative by rapid test during periods of high influenza activity;
  - b. when a patients tests positive by rapid test during periods of low influenza activity; or
  - c. when a patient has had recent close exposure to pigs, poultry, or other animals and novel influenza A virus infection is possible.

**For More Information**

For Information on Use of Influenza Antiviral Agents During the 2010-2011 Influenza Season go to:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>

For Information on Use of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests for the 2010-2011 Influenza Season go to:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/>

For other inquiries, please visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or call CDC's toll-free information line, 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

TTY: (888) 232-6348, is available 24 hours a day, every day.

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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- HAN Info Service** provides public health information or links to information posted on CDC's Web site; unlikely to require immediate action.

##This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officers, Public Information Officers, Epidemiologists and HAN Coordinators as well as Clinician organizations##

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