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**Ministère de la Santé et des
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October 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Municipal EMS Directors and Managers
First Nation EMS Directors and Managers
CAOs of Upper Tier Municipalities and Designated Delivery Agents
Ornge

FROM: Malcolm Bates
Director
Emergency Health Services Branch

RE: **Training Bulletin, Issue Number 101 – version 8.0**
Influenza Educational Review 2009/2010

I am pleased to present the Influenza Educational Review for 2009/2010. The Influenza Educational Review is based on the most current information available and is being forwarded to ambulance services to provide service operators an opportunity to facilitate the distribution of this important information to their staff.

There continues to be clear scientific evidence that vaccination against influenza each year is the most effective way to prevent being infected with the influenza virus and to avoid transmitting the virus to those at high risk for influenza-related complications. Getting immunized for influenza will not only reduce the morbidity and mortality from the disease itself, but will also assist in the management of other serious respiratory infectious diseases by reducing the number of people requiring investigation for respiratory symptoms.

The emergence of the H1N1 Influenza virus earlier this year and predictions of a possible resurgence of the virus during the upcoming influenza season means that paramedics must remain alert and take all necessary precautions when managing patients with suspected infectious respiratory illnesses.

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Public Health officials recently announced a revised influenza immunization strategy in light of new information regarding the H1N1 influenza virus. This year, Ontario will provide seasonal influenza vaccination first to people aged 65 and over and to residents of long-term care facilities, followed by the H1N1 vaccination program for all Ontarians. Seasonal influenza vaccine will be made available to the rest of the province following the H1N1 vaccination program.

As a result of the 2009 influenza vaccination strategy announced by the province and to assist ambulance operators in their responsibility to ensure that the reporting dates stipulated within Section C (Influenza Control) of the *Ambulance Service Patient Care and Transportation Standards (revised October 2007)* will be met, the following reporting date changes, to Paragraphs 2 and 4 of Section C, will be in effect for 2009:

“2. Each operator shall ensure that, as of January 30, 2010, EMAs and paramedics must:

- (a) provide a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that he or she has been vaccinated against influenza, or that such vaccination is medically contraindicated; or
- (b) provides a written statement that he or she has taken the educational review and has not been, and does not intend to be, vaccinated against influenza.”

“4. Each operator shall, no later than February 16, 2010, report to the local Senior Field Manager of the Emergency Health Services Branch, the following:

- (a) the total number of active EMAs and paramedics employed by the operator;
- (b) the number of EMAs and paramedics that have provided a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that he or she has been vaccinated against influenza;
- (c) the number of EMAs and paramedics that have provided a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that vaccination is medically contraindicated;
- (d) the number of EMAs and paramedics that signed the written statement that he or she has taken the annual educational review and has not been, and does not intend to be, immunized against influenza.”

Please note that both the H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccinations are to be included in the reports to EHS, also pursuant to the 2009 vaccination strategy.

This Training Bulletin will be printed by the Branch and forwarded to you in sufficient quantities so that you can provide every paramedic in your service with a copy as required by Section C (Influenza Control) of the *Ambulance Service Patient Care and Transportation Standards (revised October 2007)*.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cathy Francis, Manager of Education and Patient Care Standards at (416) 327-7843.



Malcolm Bates

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