



Medical Health Officers
UPDATE for Physicians

interior health

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To view previous MHO UPDATES, go to: Interior Health [Website](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)
www.interiorhealth.ca

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Human infections with novel coronavirus

Since July 2012 two patients who presented with symptoms of severe acute respiratory syndrome with disease onset separated by three months, and a history of travel to Saudi Arabia, have tested positive for a novel coronavirus. The World Health Organization (WHO) is monitoring this situation closely.

Across Interior Health, Emergency Departments are taking a proactive approach by ensuring that patients with a history of travel to the Arabian peninsula within the past 10 days and presenting with severe respiratory illness are assessed for this infection and managed in strict respiratory isolation including airborne and contact precautions.

As influenza season is approaching, all patients presenting to physician offices with cough or respiratory illness should be asked to don a mask. If physicians are concerned about patients with respiratory illness and a recent travel history to the Arabian peninsula they should contact public health through the CD Unit (1-866-778-7736) during business hours or the MHO after-hours.

Updates on the novel human coronavirus can be found on the WHO website at: www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/index.html

Update to IH Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Respiratory Outbreaks in Residential Care Settings

The IH protocol "Prevention and Control of Respiratory Illness in Residential Care Facilities" has been posted with the following major revision at:

www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/Pages/default.aspx

A recent serum creatinine or creatinine clearance is not required before starting oseltamivir, unless there is reason to suspect significant renal impairment. If significant renal impairment is not suspected, it can be assumed to be >30 mL/min. If significant renal impairment is present (CrCl is between 10-30 ml/min), oseltamivir dosage and regimen will need to be adjusted. (Refer to National Advisory Committee on Immunization Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2008-2009 Season for more details at:

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/08vol34/acs-3/index-eng.php).

For residents who are on dialysis, consult the resident's nephrologist or the Interior Health Communicable Disease Unit for dosing regimen.

Family physician survey - routine childhood immunizations

Thank you to all who participated in the recent IH Family Physician Provision of Childhood Vaccines survey. IH received 109 completed surveys for a response rate of 16% (n=109/680). Further analysis is being completed and a report will be posted on the IH website when available. The winner of the Kobo Touch e-reader is Dr. Perold Louw of Naramata.



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