



INFLUENZA OUTBREAK GUIDANCE FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and other Healthcare Facilities

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LTCFs STAFF AND MEDICAL DIRECTORS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

West Virginia is experiencing an early influenza season that has been characterized as intense and widespread. Already in 2013, 27 nursing homes or other long-term care facilities have reported an influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreak. An influenza outbreak is defined by three or more cases of ILI occurring within 72 hours in residents, OR a sudden increase in ILI, OR one case of influenza confirmed by any laboratory testing method in the presence of other residents experiencing ILI. Suspected or confirmed outbreaks are required to be reported to your local health department immediately per the reportable disease rule (WV Code 16-3-1; 64CSR7).

Steps to Managing an Influenza Outbreak in Nursing Homes and other Long-Term Care Facilities

1. Contact the local health department of every suspected or confirmed influenza outbreak as early as possible.
2. Prepare a line list of ill persons (staff and residents) submit and update daily to your local health department.
3. Collect respiratory specimens of ill residents with recent onset of signs and symptoms in order to confirm the outbreak.
4. Implement Standard and Droplet Precautions for all residents with suspected or confirmed influenza.
5. All residents who have confirmed or suspected influenza should receive antiviral treatment immediately.
6. Antiviral chemoprophylaxis is recommended for all non ill residents, regardless of their influenza vaccination status for a minimum of 2 weeks, and continuing for at least 7-10 days after the last known case. Consider antiviral chemoprophylaxis to unvaccinated personnel who provide care.

For the latest information on influenza including antiviral shortages, outbreak tool kits, and surveillance data visit our influenza page at: www.dide.wv.gov

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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