



## **HEALTH ADVISORY (#55)**

### **Long-term Care Facilities and Influenza**

**TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Long-term care facilities, nursing homes and other Healthcare Facilities**

**FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

**DATE: November 10, 2011**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO NURSING HOMES AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES: PHYSICIANS, MEDICAL DIRECTORS, AND INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS; LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Are YOU ready for the flu? Influenza season is here and it will only be a matter of time before we start seeing patients that are positive for influenza. Will you be ready?

**Influenza-like illness = temperature  $\geq$  100°F AND cough and /or sore throat.**

- Make sure all residents AND staff have been offered influenza vaccine
- Secure standing orders for influenza testing and antiviral prophylaxis in the event you have an influenza outbreak at your facility
- Review of outbreak toolkit for nursing homes so you are prepared if an influenza outbreak strikes. One positive influenza test result indicates an outbreak
- Know how you can get influenza test results quickly if you have an outbreak of influenza-like illness so you can start antiviral agents without delay

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local Health Departments, Nursing Homes, and Long-term Care Facilities. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

**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.