



# Assessment of H1N1 influenza in the Emergency Room

Diagnosis

## 1 Do they have H1N1 Influenza?

- Acute onset **Fever** (38°+) and **Cough**  
AND
- One or more of: **sore throat, arthralgias, myalgias, prostration**  
AND
- Travel to currently affected area** (see below) or contact with ill person from a currently affected area within 7 days of onset of symptoms

**If all three are present diagnose with Clinical H1N1 Influenza**

### Currently affected areas

**Global** [www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu)  
**Canada** [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

## 2 Do they need admission?

- Breathlessness?
- Altered consciousness?
- Severe chest pain?

**NO**

Advise self isolation for **7 days** from start of symptoms. Give patient **Advice for Influenza Patients** information sheet.

**YES**

Admit to private room. **Place surgical mask on patient before transport. Use Droplet Precautions.** Inform Unit in advance.

### Microbiologic testing

A nasopharyngeal swab is the preferred specimen  
See accompanying **Nasopharyngeal Swab Guide.**

Treatment

## Treatment

**Immunocompetent patients with mild illness should not be prescribed antiviral treatment.**

However, people who have chronic conditions, such as cardiac and lung disease are at higher risk of complications from influenza, and may benefit from antiviral therapy.

If antiviral therapy is indicated it should be started as soon as possible. **If more than 48 hours has passed from start of illness antivirals are not effective and should not be prescribed.**

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) 75 mg bid x 5 days for adults; dosage for children is determined by weight.

Prevention

## Infection prevention measures

- Hand hygiene for patient and providers**
- Respiratory etiquette:** Surgical mask on patient
- Droplet Precautions:** Surgical mask, eye protection
- Accommodation:** Private room

**Perform hand hygiene frequently**

## Reporting and further information

Report all cases of Clinical H1N1 Influenza **and** all persons for whom a nasopharyngeal swab was obtained to:

**Communicable Diseases Hotline: 752 5252**

For more information:

**Page the Infection Control Practitioner at your site**