



## Swine Flu Update – June 11

The World Health Organization has declared the recent H1N1 flu outbreak to have reached a Level 6 severity. The decision is based on the spread of the virus and not the severity of illness it causes. The virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in more than three countries across two regions. In general, the H1N1 flu virus continues to cause moderate illness globally with most people affected recovering at home without medical treatment. In Canada most infections to date have been mild.

We still have no immediate reason for alarm. We believe it is only prudent to continue to stay prepared and continue with our ongoing precautions. We will be closely monitoring the directives from the various Canadian health agencies to ensure we are following the appropriate actions.

The BCMEA will continue to work with our employers and union locals to ensure all parties are up to date on the current alert levels, and have appropriate plans in place to address employee and customer concerns.

Please continue to use the antibacterial gel in the dispatch halls and wash your hands often as it is the most efficient way to reduce the spread of any virus.

All employees who have;

- a. been in contact with a person diagnosed with the swine flu and/or avian flu;
- b. visited a facility that is under quarantine;
- c. are affected by any of the quarantine orders issued by the Public Health Department; or
- d. recently travelled in an affected region;

Should ensure that they identify themselves to their employer and take the necessary precautions to limit potential infection of others. Additionally, those experiencing flu like symptoms are asked to stay home and see a doctor.

We will continue to closely monitor information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Canada Public Health Agency, and will update this website as more information becomes available.