

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**



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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Health System Partners and Colleagues

RE: Seasonal influenza resources

DATE: January 9, 2014

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Dear Health System Partners and Colleagues,

Every year, influenza impacts the province of Ontario. Many activities are undertaken by government ministries and Public Health Ontario to anticipate, prevent, mitigate and manage the health and health system impacts of influenza related illnesses.

I am pleased to release [Seasonal Influenza 2013/2014: Ontario's Blueprint for Action](#). This document outlines the actions that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Labour are undertaking to support the health system's response to seasonal influenza.

I would like to remind you to visit the ministry's seasonal influenza website at [www.ontario.ca/flu](http://www.ontario.ca/flu) to access tools and resources to support you during the influenza season, such as:

- the ministry's [risk assessment statement](#), released each Monday during influenza season, that describes how the province is progressing through the influenza season
- links to resources on [care & treatment](#) and [occupational health & safety and infection prevention & control](#)

In particular, I want to draw your attention to the recently released best practice guidelines by the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI) on the use of antiviral drugs to treat influenza ([The use of antiviral drugs for influenza: A foundation document for practitioners](#)). Health workers can use the guidance in the AMMI document to support decision-making when assessing patients with influenza-like illness.

Thank you very much.

*Original signed by*

Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Chief Medical Officer of Health