

September 8, 2009

Dear Members,

As a pharmacist and front-line health care provider in Ontario, we are very pleased to provide you with this H1N1 preparedness information kit to help you counsel your patients about how to prepare for a potential second wave of the influenza pandemic this fall. The kit includes valuable tools to help you convey the vital steps that everyone can take to both prevent and manage the flu.

The kit is provided by Ontario's Community Pharmacies with content expertise provided by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. It is endorsed by us – the members of Ontario's Community Pharmacies including the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, the Independent Pharmacists of Ontario, and the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores.

The kit includes the following materials for you to provide directly to your patients:

- a Myths and Facts handout;
- an H1N1 preparedness checklist;
- a summary on “How to handwash” and “How to handrub (hand sanitizers).”
- The kit also includes an ‘Ask the Pharmacist’ poster to place in a highly visible area to encourage patients to request the kit and initiate conversation.

The kit materials can be found in the Members section of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association website at <http://www.opatoday.com> or by visiting <http://ontario.communitypharmacies.ca>.

Please review this information to familiarize yourself with the contents, so that you and your patients will receive the full benefit from it. We encourage you to engage in conversations with your patients about H1N1 on a proactive basis. While patients may have specific questions about one aspect, there is an opportunity to broaden the discussion so that they have information at their fingertips when they need it. Having the right information will be vital to stemming the spread of H1N1 and obtaining timely and appropriate treatment, as well as distinguishing H1N1 from other illnesses.

**Please note:** Media in Ontario will be informed via a press release on September 8 that pharmacies across the province have the H1N1 flu preparedness kits available. Your patients may hear about the kits via media coverage and request one from you. If you are contacted by a member of the media wishing to speak with you about the kit, please contact Lindsay George at the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, at (416) 441-0788 ext. 4236 or [lgeorge@opatoday.com](mailto:lgeorge@opatoday.com). She will be happy to assist you.

Given the level of public awareness about H1N1 and the accessibility of pharmacists, we are confident that this kit will assist you in the coming weeks and months. Pharmacists working in a chain or banner store should refer to their head office key contact for further information on use of the material

Yours truly,

Dennis Darby  
Ontario Pharmacists'  
Association

Ben Shenouda  
Independent Pharmacists  
of Ontario

Nadine Saby  
Canadian Association of  
Chain Drug Stores