



INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

EMPLOYEES

Update : September 15, 2009

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EMPLOYEES

Is my risk of catching influenza A(H1N1) greater if I go to work?

No, since the virus is present in the entire community, not just in the workplace. However, since influenza A(H1N1) behaves like the seasonal flu, the usual preventive measures apply at work and elsewhere. For more information, see: www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/ma-sante/sante.shtml

Should I wear a protective mask or gloves?

No, since the flu virus is currently not very virulent. Special measures have been developed for the health sector. Recommendations can be consulted on:

www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/extranet/pandemie/download.php?f=d1e8a173e40b775798c26a6720bdeacd

Which work sectors and trades are most at-risk?

For the time being, no work environment is more at-risk than another. Guidelines for specific protective measures have been issued in the health sector. For other work environments, employees are reminded to implement personal hygiene measures.

I am pregnant... should I stop working?

If you are worried, see your doctor. If he/she deems that your workplace is at risk, he/she will contact the Direction de la santé publique and, if need be, complete a certificate of reassignment or preventive withdrawal for a pregnant or nursing worker.

How can I protect myself?

By following simple personal hygiene rules: frequent handwashing and coughing or sneezing into a Kleenex or the crook of your elbow, if applicable. Should there be a change in measures to implement, the public health authorities will inform the public.

As an employee, can I refuse to go to work if I think the flu is in my workplace?

Under the Act respecting occupational health and safety, a worker has the right to refuse to perform work if he has reasonable cause to believe that doing this work endangers his health, safety or physical well-being. In this case, the preventive measures found on

www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/quotidien/sante-securite-trav.shtml must be implemented. If they already exist, the right of refusal does not apply. With respect to the current influenza A(H1N1) pandemic, because virulence is low, it is unlikely that a right of refusal would be granted.

Are hog farm workers at greater risk?

No.

Once the influenza A(H1N1) vaccine is available, will I have to get vaccinated? Can my employer force me to get vaccinated?

Once the vaccine is available, it will be possible to get vaccinated. The worker has the right to agree to or refuse the vaccination