

Important Health Notice

October 3, 2005
Volume 2, Issue 7
Page 1 of 1

Information for Healthcare Professionals

FRI Outbreak in Toronto Nursing Home

Highlights:

- **Control measures for individuals with a febrile respiratory illness and a link to Seven Oaks Nursing Home identified**
- **Personal protective equipment measures for staff**

Dear Colleagues:

The following is being provided to update you on the outbreak at a Toronto nursing home:

- revised case definition is as follows: sudden onset of fever with malaise and/or anorexia, with or without runny nose and nasal congestion or cough
- currently 68 of 249 residents and 8 of 290 staff are line listed as ill, 30 (including 7 staff/visitors) have been admitted to hospital for treatment. There have been six deaths among residents. Some residents are improving and are now afebrile. (Please note: these numbers will change and are provided only for context)
- laboratory testing for a wide range of illnesses is being carried out with no positive test results as yet. SARS, avian flu and influenza have been ruled out
- control measures are as follows:
 - hospitalized patients are in isolation with droplet precautions
 - as hospitalized patients become ready for discharge they will be discharged with no additional measures required
 - patients with symptoms not requiring hospitalization are being sent home with instructions to follow until symptoms pass:
 - hand hygiene
 - cough etiquette
 - spatial separation
 - if they don't feel well, stay home from work/school
- staff who work at Seven Oaks Home for the Aged and other hospitals/nursing homes and are asymptomatic for four (4) days since last contact with Seven Oaks Home for the Aged may work elsewhere
- patients transferred from Seven Oaks for other reasons will be isolated as a precaution
- transfers of un-exposed residents back to Seven Oaks have been put on hold until further notice
- All staff at the home, the hospitals involved and in Emergency Medical Services are using gowns, masks, eye protection, and gloves when in contact with patients affected by the Seven Oaks outbreak. A decision will be made on October 4 regarding when these measures can be lifted, in whole or in part
- Hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area have been and are expected to continue to be responsive to requests for access to available isolation beds

Please contact your local public health unit should you have any questions.

(original signed by)

Dr Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister

(original signed by)

Allison J. Stuart
Director, Emergency Management Unit

Important Health Notice

Information for Healthcare Professionals

October 1, 2005

Volume 2, Issue 6

Page 1 of 1

FRI Outbreak in Toronto Nursing Home

Highlights:

- **Febrile respiratory illness outbreak in Seven Oaks Nursing Home, cause unknown**
- **Appropriate infection control precautions taken in transfer and management of patients**
- **Healthcare providers should report individuals who have visited or resided at the nursing home since September 27 and have symptoms of an FRI to their local public health unit**

Dear Colleagues:

The following is being provided to address concerns arising from partial information regarding the outbreak at a Toronto nursing home:

- outbreak of a febrile respiratory illness was identified at Seven Oaks Nursing Home in Toronto on September 27
- individuals presented with malaise, low-grade temperature and some progressed rapidly to cough, high temperature and, on x-ray, consolidation in the lower lobes
- currently 68 of 249 residents and 5 of 290 staff are listed as ill, 15 are admitted to hospital, including one staff member and one visitor. There have been four deaths among residents. (Please note: these numbers will change and are provided only for context)
- laboratory testing for a wide range of illnesses is being carried out with no positive test results as yet. SARS, avian flu and influenza have been ruled out
- there is no apparent travel history to Asia

All staff at the home, the hospitals involved and in Emergency Medical Services are using appropriate personal protective equipment and infection control measures.

All ambulance transfer requests through Provincial Transport Authorization Centre are being reviewed with additional caution.

Hospitals in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area are assisting to ensure that patients requiring isolation are in appropriate accommodation.

All hospital emergency departments in Toronto are open with screening procedures modified to ask about recent visits to Seven Oaks Nursing Home.

Leadership from the Toronto Public Health Department, the nursing home, the affected hospitals, the Public Health Laboratories and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care are working together to address the issues arising from the outbreak.

Should information become available that will modify how health care should be provided, a further Important Health Notice will be released.

(original signed by)

Dr Sheela Basur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister

(original signed by)

Allison J. Stuart
Director, Emergency Management Unit