



AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Communications

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ADHB Media Release

September 6, 2010

Further H1N1 Death At Auckland City Hospital

A further H1N1-related death at Auckland City Hospital was confirmed today by Auckland District Health Board (ADHB).

This brings to six the total number of H1N1-related patient deaths at Auckland City Hospital this year.

The most recent was a 51-year-old woman who died on September 4. There were no other underlying medical conditions but the patient did have a risk factor for H1N1.

People are reminded to take steps to protect themselves and others from influenza:

Know the symptoms of influenza, which can include a high fever, headache, cough, sore throat, tiredness and generally aching all over.

Phone for health advice quickly (call your GP or Healthline on 0800 611 116) if you have influenza-like symptoms, including consideration of whether you need antiviral medication.

Antiviral medication may lessen the severity and length of your illness but is best started within the first 48 hours.

Antiviral treatment is currently available free of charge for people who are prescribed it for influenza treatment.

Seeking early medical advice is especially important for women who are pregnant, severely overweight people and those with underlying medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, cancer, heart and lung disease and other conditions including autoimmune diseases.

Wash and dry hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes and stay home if you are sick.

If you haven't been immunised, it's important to book-in and **get immunised now** as it takes up to a fortnight for the vaccine to offer its full level of protection.

Young children also need a longer time as they require two doses a month apart to be assured of best protection.

Immunisation is especially recommended for those at greatest risk of complications from H1N1 influenza, including women who are pregnant, very young children, severely overweight people and those with underlying medical conditions.

To allow flexibility over the weeks ahead, the Ministry of Health has reached an agreement with Sanofi, who will supply up to 35,000 doses of Intanza for the subsidised influenza immunisation programme.

Intanza provides protection against the same strains of influenza as Vaxigrip (the brand which is currently in use), including pandemic influenza H1N1 (swine flu).

Intanza is only approved for use in individuals aged 18 to 59 – therefore, only those with chronic conditions, obese individuals or pregnant women in this age will be subsidised for Intanza.

Intanza, perhaps best known for its very small needle, is new on the scene this year and until now has only been available on the private market.

Please be aware that, as per planning, at some stage in the next few weeks, warehouse supplies of Vaxigrip will be depleted, making Intanza the only seasonal flu vaccine available for subsidised patients.

More information can be found on the Ministry of Health website at:
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/influenza-a-h1n1>.

ENDS

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