

**Ministry of Health and
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**Ministère de la Santé et des
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MEMORANDUM TO: Paramedic Chiefs, Ornge and First Nations

FROM: Tarmo Uukkivi
Director
Emergency Health Services Branch

RE: **Training Bulletin, Issue Number 101 – version 15.0
Influenza Educational Review 2016/2017**

I am pleased to present the Influenza Educational Review for 2016/2017. The Influenza Educational Review is based on the most current information available and is being forwarded to paramedic services to facilitate the distribution of this important information to your staff.

There continues to be clear scientific evidence that vaccination against influenza each year is the most effective way to prevent being infected with the influenza virus and to avoid transmitting the virus to those at high risk for influenza-related complications.

This training bulletin has been produced to provide paramedics with the information necessary to help limit the spread of influenza. Each year, a substantial number of patients are transported in ambulances that are within the high risk categories. It is important that paramedics remain alert and take all necessary precautions when managing patients with suspected infectious respiratory illnesses.

The reporting dates stipulated within Section C (Influenza Control) of the *Patient Care and Transportation Standards*, version 2.2 are modified for 2016 as follows:

“2. Each operator shall ensure that, as of **December 16, 2016** each EMA and paramedic must:

- (a) provide a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that he or she has been vaccinated against influenza, or that such vaccination is medically contraindicated; or
- (b) provide a written statement that he or she has taken the educational review and has not been, and does not intend to be, vaccinated against influenza.”

“4. Each operator shall, no later than **January 20, 2017** report to the local Senior Field Manager of the Emergency Health Services Branch the following:

- (a) the total number of active EMAs and paramedics employed by the operator;
- (b) the number of EMAs and paramedics that have provided a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that he or she has been vaccinated against influenza;
- (c) the number of EMAs and paramedics that have provided a valid certificate signed by a physician or delegate that states that vaccination is medically contraindicated;
- (d) the number of EMAs and paramedics that signed the written statement that he or she has taken the annual educational review and has not been, and does not intend to be, immunized against influenza.”

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Lyons, Paramedic Standards and Certification Coordinator at (416) 327-7852 or patricia.lyons@ontario.ca .

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Tarmo Uukkivi

- c: Senior Managers/Managers, EHSB
- N. Arron, Director, Public Health Policy & Programs Branch
- N. Roberts, President, OAPC
- Dr. M. Lewell, Chair, OBHG-MAC
- S. Kriening, Chair, OBHG-Executive
- Regional Training Coordinators
- Paramedic Program Coordinators

Enclosure