

TO: ODHA Board of Directors, ODMHA Council, District Chairpersons, Association Presidents, Central Junior Hockey League, Eastern Ontario Junior Hockey League, ODHA Junior C Hockey League, ODHA/ODMHA Referee in Chief

FR: Brent Dick, V.P. Risk, Safety and Conduct Management

DT: September 10th, 2009

RE: H1N1 Virus – Recommended Steps for Associations and Teams

While many public health officials from around the world warn that an influenza pandemic is overdue, increasingly, some are talking not about “if”, but “when” the next pandemic will occur. Pandemic Planning is therefore essential for all.

Work has occurred at the federal level that has resulted in the development of a contingency plan which reflects the role of the federal government in a pandemic influenza response. At the provincial level, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) that is to guide health planning and response efforts at both the provincial and local levels across Ontario. In addition, many organizations within various sporting communities are beginning to address this issue, including Hockey Canada which has developed recommendations for use by our amateur hockey associations and leagues. (see attached)

Given the potential for an influenza pandemic occurrence and the impact it could have, it is important for every hockey association and league to promote and consistently practice these preventive measures. Also included is a Fact Sheet (see attached) for your all team’s trainers and parents.

Our priority is the health and safety of all our participants, therefore, we’d ask that you share this information with your teams as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (613) 732-5928 or odharsm@sympatico.ca