

August 23, 2011

Sentinel Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness (VE) Study 2011-12

Dear Sentinel,

Below are key features of note for the 2011/12 VE study season. Should you be interested in participating in the study a collection kit will be sent to you with all supplies needed and updated and detailed instructions for 2011-12 VE monitoring. If you would like to receive the full study protocol please contact us. Please sign and return the consent form attached to this letter.

- **Patient eligibility:** Consenting resident of the province who presents to you for care within 1 week of **Influenza Like Illness (ILI)** symptom onset regardless of their vaccination history.
- **Patient consent:** patient or guardian must verbally consent to their sample and related information collected for VE analysis. (Please note: analysis is performed on anonymised aggregated data and will not breach patient privacy)
- **Specimen collection:** it is generally expected that **1-2 samples** will be collected per sentinel **per week** during flu season from eligible patients presenting with **ILI**. A single nasopharyngeal (NP) or nasal swab is collected for each patient and sent with an ice-pack (provided) to the Public Health Lab in Toronto for testing.
- **Questionnaire:** following the collection of the sample a short questionnaire (8 questions) is filled on the laboratory requisition form and sent to the lab together with the sample for study related data collection and analysis.
- **Shipping:** shipping of samples to the lab will be done via FedEx using pre-printed waybills to streamline the process and avoid confusion and errors.
- **Study period:** Collection of samples can commence October 3rd 2011 and will continue year-round until next season.
- **Compensation:** we will provide \$10 for each sample submitted together with a **completed** questionnaire to compensate for clinic time.

- The 2011-12 influenza vaccine contains the same three strains as for 2010-11:
 1. A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like strain
 2. A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like strain
 3. B/Brisbane/60/2008-like strain
- Manitoba is joining the sentinel VE monitoring network this year, meaning sentinel sites from five of the largest provinces across Canada are now participating (BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec).

- This season the study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the new nasal vaccine (**FLUMIST™**) and adjuvanted vaccine for the elderly (**FLUAD®**) recently approved in Canada.
- If you have any further questions, please contact Romy Olsha at 416-235-6242 or Dr. Jonathan Gubbay at 416-235-6258 or check out our website @ www.oahpp.ca/resources/studies/vestudy/index.html.

Thank you again for your important and valuable support.

Dr. Natasha Crowcroft, MA MSc MD (Cantab)
MRCP FFPH
Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology
Public Health Ontario

Anne-Luise Winter RN, BScN, MHSc, CIC
Senior Epidemiologist
Public Health Ontario

Dr. Jonathan Gubbay MBBS, FRCPC, FRACP,
MMedSc
Medical Microbiologist
Public Health Ontario
Public Health Laboratory Toronto

Romy Olsha
VE Study Coordinator
Public Health Ontario

Written consent for sentinels related to the sentinel VE study

I, , agree to being contacted by the Ontario Vaccine Effectiveness Study
(Please print name)
coordinator and to participating in the Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness study in the 2011-2012 season.

I understand that, in providing my contact information below, I may, at any time, decline further study-related contact or withdraw the participation of my practice from this study altogether without penalty.

It is agreed that my practice and patient contact information will remain confidential without any personal identifying information being shared and will only be used for the purpose of communicating laboratory results, updating on study progress or completing other study-related purpose.

Please print your full name:	<input type="text"/>
Complete mailing address:	<input type="text"/>
Office phone number:	<input type="text"/>
Fax number:	<input type="text"/>
Email address:	<input type="text"/>
Best day/time of the week to be contacted:	<input type="text"/>
Preferred Method of contact /communication:	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Courier/ Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Other: <input type="text"/>
Signature:	<input type="text"/>
I need more information before consenting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please fax this sheet to Romy Olsha @ 416-235-6550 or email to romy.olsha@oahpp.ca