

Faculty:

What is my role in supervising learners in the clinical setting with respect to the current H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic or local outbreaks?

1. Encourage learners to use appropriate infection control measures as outlined in the “General” section above. Act as a role model by practicing the infection control measures yourself. These measures help to protect you, your learners, and your patients and help prevent the spread of flu.
2. Remain informed about local circumstances by reviewing healthcare bulletins, memos, and e-mails from the MOHLTC, clinical site, or educational program. Consider how learners might be affected by local circumstances (e.g. how is the hospital managing antiviral medications and immunizations). Bring concerns to the attention of leaders of your educational program and clinical site.
3. Know how to get in contact with your learner. Know the policies of your clinical site, in order to advise a student what to do if a learner reports to work with symptoms of H1N1 Flu Virus or influenza like illness. Know what to do if a learner comes into contact with an individual with H1N1 Flu Virus or influenza like illness. The appropriate responses may be determined by (1) the evolution of the pandemic or outbreak and our current response to it; (2) the individual learner; and (3) the clinical situation. If you are uncertain about the appropriate response, contact the local leadership of your educational program.
4. Depending on the circumstances of a pandemic or outbreak, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care may instruct hospitals and academic institutions to increase or decrease the involvement of learners in the clinical setting. Please be supportive of learners under these circumstances.