

**ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR
10TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Notice

This letter will review the information we have previously provided, as well as information on the steps we have taken to help control the spread of the H1N1 virus during the OFL convention.

We are again providing information based on the material posted on the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Public Health Agency of Canada websites.

H1N1 flu feels very much like the regular seasonal flu. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

There is always the potential for the spread of the influenza virus at events such as the OFL convention. This can be mitigated with the proper use of hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette.

Proper hand cleaning is recognized as an important way to guard against the flu and limit the spread of the flu virus. So clean your hands often to protect yourself and others from getting the flu.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are as good as soap and water to clean your hands, unless they are visibly dirty. Make sure you really rub the sanitizer all over your hands, and be sure to use a sanitizer that contains 60 – 90% alcohol base. Keep alcohol-based hand sanitizer handy.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and dispose of the tissue as soon as possible. Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.

Keep your hands away from your face. The H1N1 virus can enter your body through your eyes, nose and mouth.

If you develop flu like symptoms while you are at convention, please do not come onto the convention hall. Stay in your room unless obtaining medical assistance and please notify one of the OFL staff who will be assigned to deal with an H1N1 outbreak should one occur.

The OFL is providing each delegate with an individual container of hand sanitizer. We have asked the hotel to set up hand sanitizer stations in the hotel for your use. Microphones used on the convention floor will be sanitized prior to the start of each day during lunch break and at the end of each day. The child care facilities will also be periodically sanitized. The sanitizers are registered for the use against influenza virus by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have a child registered with our child care facilities at the convention and the child develops flu like symptoms during the convention, please do not bring them to the child care facility. If you develop symptoms during the time when your child is in child care, please do not come to the child care facility, call the child care providers and arrangements will be made to have your child brought to you.

A number of communities have established Flu Assessment Centres, but at the time this material is being prepared, none have been established in Toronto. If this changes, we will provide this information to you.

While surgical masks are not appropriate protective equipment to protect healthy individuals from exposure to the virus, they can help reduce spreading the virus if worn by individuals who are already sick. If you develop flu like symptoms, the OFL will provide you with a surgical mask to wear if you need to leave your room to seek medical attention or decide to check out early.

The staff assigned to deal with an H1N1 outbreak are:

Vern Edwards - (416) 578-4258 cell

Carrol Anne Sceviour - (416) 606-5046 cell

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