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**HIGH PRIORITY  
HEALTH ALERT**

**November 29, 2023**

**From the Office of Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health**

## **Notice of First Lab Confirmed Influenza Case in SWPH**

Southwestern Public Health has been notified of one (1) lab-confirmed case of influenza A this season.

This confirmed case is an indication that influenza is circulating in the SWPH area. Surrounding areas are also experiencing sporadic activity and outbreaks in Long-Term Care and Retirement Home settings.

Please continue to promote and administer the seasonal influenza vaccine to your patients to help prevent the spread of influenza.

Health care workers who have not been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to receive their influenza vaccine as soon as possible. Unvaccinated health care workers from health care facilities experiencing an influenza outbreak may be required to take a prophylactic dose of anti-viral medication for the duration of an influenza outbreak in order to work.

Refer to the SWPH Respiratory Illness Activity Dashboard for more information about COVID-19, RSV and influenza in our region:

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/shared-content/respiratory-virus-activity-dashboard.aspx>

The Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool is available here for provincial information:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

**Dr. Ninh Tran**

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