

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the
Commissioner of Public Health,
Chief Medical Officer of Health and
Assistant Deputy Minister

5700 Yonge St., 8th Floor,
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Tel.: 416-314-5487
Fax: 416-327-7438

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du
commissaire à la santé publique,
médecin hygiéniste en chef
et sous-ministre adjoint

5700, rue Yonge, 8^e étage
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Tél. : 416 314-5487
Télééc. : 416 327-7438



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Information for Health Care Professionals on Avian Influenza Situation

Dear Colleagues:

Attached please find an update on the Avian Influenza situation, requiring your attention.

Increased vigilance is recommended in the surveillance of influenza-like illness (ILI) and for the recognition, reporting and prompt investigation of any unexpected outcomes.

My colleagues in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care intend to modify the screening tool in the Infection Control and Surveillance Standards for Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI) in Non-Outbreak conditions and will communicate it to you in the near future. However, I would encourage you to ascertain previous travel to Vietnam in any cases of severe ILI.

This ascertainment and consequent reporting to the local medical officer of health will greatly assist the public health management of a possible case of avian influenza.

In a hospital setting, please ensure that emergency departments and points of admission to inpatient care are aware of the recommendations in the attached *Important Health Notice*.

Yours truly,

Colin O. D'Cunha, MBBS, MHSc, FRCPC
Commissioner of Public Health,
Chief Medical Officer of Health and
Assistant Deputy Minister