

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Hamilton Influenza Update

**HAMILTON, ON – January, 11, 2013** – Monitoring of Influenza activity by Public Health Services shows that local influenza activity has begun to decline. This week, 58 cases of lab-confirmed influenza A were reported; this is about half of what was reported this time last week.

Currently, local urgent care centres and emergency departments are seeing a reduction in the proportion of patients with fever / influenza-like illness (currently 3%; peak was 7%) and respiratory illness (currently 13%; peak was 22%). And there are currently 13 active institutional outbreaks of influenza A and an additional 4 that are suspected to be influenza A.

The supply of antiviral, Tamiflu, in local pharmacies is limited due to increased demand across the country. Additional supplies are expected to be available early next week.

To ensure that people in Hamilton who have received a prescription from their doctor are able to fill their prescriptions, local hospitals have agreed to provide access to their supply of Tamiflu as a short term solution to the current shortage. Those with a prescription for Tamiflu who are unable to access the drug through their community pharmacy can visit the retail pharmacy at the Charlton Campus of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton in order to have their prescription filled. The pharmacy will be open extended hours this weekend for patients.

**The St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton pharmacy is located within the main lobby of the Charlton Campus (50 Charlton Ave. East, Hamilton)**

**Pharmacy hours for the weekend of January 11 to 13<sup>th</sup>**

- **Friday January 11 9:00 am to 7:00 pm**
- **Saturday, January 12: 11:00 am-4:00 pm**
- **Sunday, January 13: 9:00 am-5:00 pm**

“It’s wonderful to see the Hamilton healthcare sector come together to find a local solution that will keep Tamiflu available for those in the community who need it,” said Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Hamilton’s Medical Officer of Health. Public Health Services is continuing to monitor the status of Influenza A in the community and has informed family doctors in Hamilton on the special arrangements made to provide access to Tamiflu over the weekend.

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**For more information please contact:**

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