

BULLETIN #38 – November 6, 2009

H1N1 Pandemic

You are all aware that Ontario is in the midst of an H1N1 pandemic. The Ontario Newborn Screening Program (ONSP) is considered an essential service and will continue with standard operating procedures during this time.

We have been advised that a number of health care facilities across the province have had to reduce clinical activity and re-deploy staff to respond to the H1N1 situation. The impact this will have on the newborn screening workflow is currently unclear.

We have recently noticed a slight increase in the number of samples received that are laboratory UNSATs or obtained at less than 24 hours of age.

If your facility is experiencing difficulties related to the newborn screening process during this pandemic – (e.g. increased volume of early discharges, staff shortages impacting work flow, etc.) please contact the ONSP to advise us of these events so we can prepare for the anticipated impact.

The contact for notification is Kim Gall, Genetic Counsellor at 613 738 3222 X3474 or you can email the Ontario Newborn Screening Program at NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Ontario Newborn Screening Program the most effective and efficient that it can be.

Additional information about the Ontario Newborn Screening Program can be found at:
www.newbornscreening.on.ca

These bulletins are being circulated to keep you abreast of changes to the Ontario Newborn Screening program. Please share this information with any relevant personnel in your hospital / clinic. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, contact:
Shelley Kennedy or Sari Zelenietz, Genetic Counsellors
(613) 738-3222, option #1; NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca