



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

10/15/2013

Karen Martin  
Minnesota Department of Health  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Attention Nursing/ Medical Directors and Infection Prevention Personnel in Long-term Care Facilities:

Once again, it is influenza season and MDH would like to let you know about a change in reporting outbreaks of influenza. In previous years, we had asked facilities to call MDH whenever they had a suspected or confirmed outbreak of influenza. This year, we would like you to use the "Long-Term Care Facility Influenza Outbreak Report" form. This form may be filled out and submitted by fax or email when the outbreak is first suspected. **Submission of this form is all that is required for reporting an outbreak of influenza.** As always, you are welcome to call MDH with any questions regarding infection control, antiviral medication, or influenza testing.

Please refer to the LTC guidance [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/ltc/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/ltc/) for recommendations on preparing for and responding to influenza in your facility.

MDH encourages long-term care facilities to participate in FluSafe. FluSafe is MDH's program to improve health care worker flu vaccination. The program uses the state's immunization registry to collect information about employee flu vaccinations, and then MDH publicly recognizes all facilities reaching 70%, 80%, and 90% vaccination rates. Nursing homes can sign up by clicking the FluSafe logo on [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com). Registration for new facilities is open until December 1, 2013.

Please contact me with any questions regarding influenza surveillance in your facility.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

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