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March 14, 2008

To: Local Health Departments; Infection Control Professionals; Division of Quality Assurance; Wisconsin LTC D.O.N. Association; Wisconsin LTC Medical Directors Association; Wisconsin Healthcare Association; Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the

Aging

From: Thomas Haupt M.S.
Wisconsin Division of Public Health

RE: Clarification of Reporting Requirements for Respiratory Disease Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities

Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities (LTCFs) are required by law to report to their local health department single cases of notifiable conditions such as legionellosis, pertussis, and laboratory-confirmed invasive bacterial disease. A complete list of notifiable conditions can be found at

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasereporting/index.htm>

Communicable disease outbreaks must also be reported. The purpose of this letter is to clarify when and how to report respiratory disease outbreaks in a LTCF.

What is *not* reportable to local health departments?

Individual cases of pneumonia and influenza-like illness (ILI) are not reportable, but should prompt immediate testing and infection control measures to prevent additional cases. A single laboratory-confirmed case of influenza is also not reportable unless associated with a pediatric death or due to a novel strain of influenza A. Novel influenza A viruses will be reported by the laboratory where it is identified.

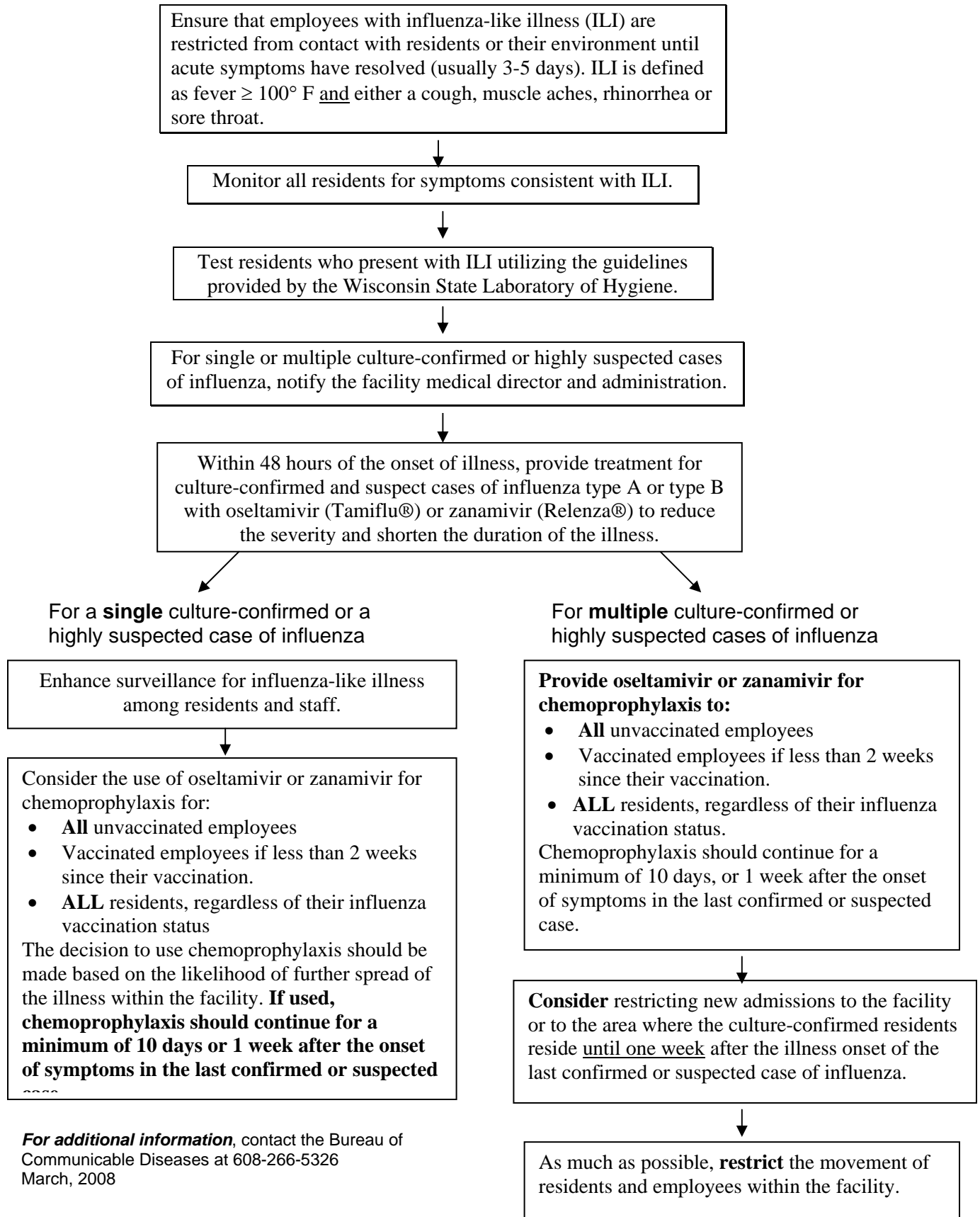
What is reportable to local health departments?

Disease outbreaks are reportable. A respiratory disease outbreak is defined as laboratory-confirmed influenza or pneumonia in three or more residents from the same unit whose onset of illness was within 72 hours, or a sudden increase in ILI or pneumonia over the normal background rate.

Definitions:

- ILI is defined as illness characterized by fever* and at least one of the following:
 - Rhinorrhea (runny nose) or nasal congestion
 - Sore throat
 - Myalgia (muscle aches) that are greater than the patient's norm
 - Cough (productive or non-productive)
- Pneumonia is defined as radiographic evidence of new or increased pulmonary infiltrates usually accompanied by fever
- Fever may be difficult to determine in elderly residents. Therefore, the definition of fever used for ILI may be defined as temperature >100° F or 2° above the established baseline for that resident.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFLUENZA IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES



For additional information, contact the Bureau of Communicable Diseases at 608-266-5326
March, 2008