

# Criteria for Identifying Patients at High Risk of Influenza Complications

## People at high risk of influenza-related complications, including:

- Adults (including pregnant women) and children with chronic conditions such as:
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Respiratory disease (e.g., asthma, COPD)
  - Diabetes or other metabolic disease
  - Cancer, immunodeficiency, immunosuppression (due to underlying disease and/or therapy)
  - Renal disease
  - Persons who are morbidly obese (BMI $\geq$ 40)
  - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy
  - Conditions that compromise the management of respiratory secretions
- Children and adolescents with the following conditions:
  - Neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions including seizure disorders, febrile seizures and isolated developmental delay
  - Undergoing treatment for long periods with acetylsalicylic acid
- All residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities
- Seniors aged 65 years or older
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 6–59 months of age
- Aboriginal peoples

## People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk of complications, including:

- Health care providers in facilities and community settings
- Household contacts of a high-risk person including those  $\leq$  59 months of age
- Members of a household expecting a newborn during influenza season
- Women at all stages of pregnancy or breastfeeding mothers
- Those providing regular child care to children 0–59 months of age
- Those who provide services within closed settings to persons at high risk

Medications Indicative of High Risk **		
Amlodipine	Insulin	Salbutamol
Clopidogrel	Lisinopril	Verapamil
Digoxin	Metformin	Warfarin
Diltiazem	Nitroglycerin	Salmeterol
Enalapril	Prednisone	Ipratropium
Fosinopril	Quinapril	Ritonavir
Glyburide	Ramipril	

\*\* For a more detailed list of medications and conditions indicative of high-risk patients, see Appendix A.

These medications were selected based on frequency of use and indication for high-risk disease; for example, salbutamol was chosen as an indicator for asthma and COPD. This will identify the majority of patients with either condition and will decrease the number of drugs to be searched.

## Others:

- People who provide essential community services
- People in direct contact with avian influenza-infected poultry during culling operations
- Travellers even if they are not in the above priority groups
- All Canadians aged 6 months and older who do not have contraindications to the influenza vaccine are encouraged to receive the vaccine even if they are not in the above groups, as they can still benefit from influenza protection.

## Who should not be immunized:

- Individuals who developed an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of influenza vaccine or to any of the vaccine components (with the exception of egg), or who developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of influenza vaccination, should not receive a further dose.