

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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May 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP)
Steering Committee Members
OHPIP Training Working Group Members

FROM: Brian Schwarz, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP
Chair, OHPIP Training Working Group

RE: Personal and Family Care Module Launch

When an influenza pandemic arrives in Ontario, health workers and their families will be affected as much as the rest of the population. At the same time, demand for health care services will increase.

As people who work in the health sector, we all want to be able to stay healthy and protected as possible so we can carry on with our roles in the health system. In order to do this we must ensure we and those closest to us are prepared and ready.

That is why the Training Working Group of the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic Steering Committee has developed a curriculum on personal and family care for health professionals and support staff across all settings. The module is hosted at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (the ministry) web site: [Personal and Family Care Module](#)

The interactive online Personal and Family Care training program is designed to provide you – the health worker – with information and tools to help you look after yourself and the people you care about during an influenza pandemic. Topics include: infection prevention and control and personal hygiene, vaccines and antivirals, strategies to help you and your family prepare, and where to get more information.

In addition to online access, the working group is looking at ways to modify the program to support more traditional methods of teaching and learning, such as in the

classroom and face-to-face. This format will be available within the next few months.

I encourage you to complete the module and let us know what you think: an evaluation form is included at the end of the module.

Finally, I also ask that you promote the module to your colleagues and beyond. Personal and family preparedness is important for everyone in the health sector who will be part of the response to an influenza pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more legible than the last name "Schwartz".

Brian Schwartz