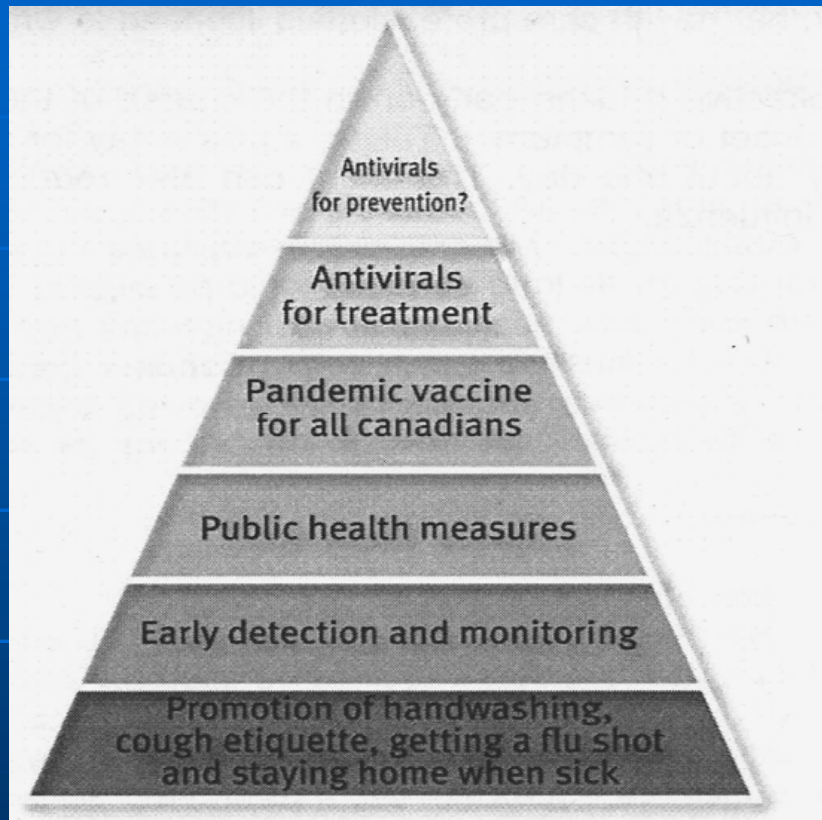


Vaccines and Antiviral Medications

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Preparing for a Pandemic



Pan-Canadian Public Health Network 2006

Vaccines and Antiviral Medications

- Priority Groups
- Timeframes
- Storage and Safety
- Side effects

Influenza Vaccine

- Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2000 for seasonal influenza
- Reduces morbidity, mortality and demands on health care system
- Epidemiological study of prevalent strains
- Province provides 6 million doses per year

Influenza Vaccine

- Access to vaccine in event of a pandemic expected to take 4 to 6 months
- Distributed by priority groups
- Dependent on epidemiology of the pandemic strain
- May need to receive two doses of the vaccine to be protected

Influenza Vaccine

- Protection against disease
- Decreases the spread of disease
- Mass vaccination clinics
- Vaccine ordered from BCHU and stored at PHO
- Cold Chain Protocol maintained
- Implement vaccination training for lay persons

Influenza Vaccine

- Side effects similar to seasonal influenza vaccine
- Local redness, swelling, sore arm
- Headache, may feel tired
- May have fever, muscle aches
- Severe reaction rare

Antiviral Medication

- AKA anti-influenza drugs
- Used to prevent illness and treatment
- Administered within 12 to 48 hours of first symptoms
- Reduce severity of symptoms
- Shorten length of illness
- Reduce serious complications

Antiviral Medication

- Vital for treatment until vaccine becomes available
- National stockpile of 55 million by 2009
- Available in three forms: pills, liquids and inhalers
- “Tamiflu” used to control outbreaks in health care and LTC settings
- HCW may not be familiar with usage

Antiviral Medication

- Tamiflu (oseltamivir) comes in caps & liquid solution
- Relenza (zanamivir) is for inhalation
- Both work to interfere with replication of the virus
- Both effective against influenza A and B infections
- Shelf life 5 years
- 70 to 90% effective

Antiviral Medication

- Prophylaxis is done only when individual has had close contact with influenza
- National/Provincial policy on the use of antivirals for prophylaxis in uninfected persons to be developed
- Six Nations to receive small stockpile from FNIH to be stored at PHO to have on hand at onset of pandemic

Antiviral Medication

- Usual side effects include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache
- More severe reactions are rare
- Tamiflu NOT to be administered to children less than 1 year of age and to pregnant/breastfeeding women
- Relenza is safe for use in pregnant/breastfeeding women

References

- Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health care Sector, October 2006
- Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic, September 2006
- Public Health Agency of Canada website www.phac-aspc@hc-sc.gc.ca