



# Collaborative influence-in-action

## Case story: Influenza and influenza-like illness

### NCCs MOBILIZE COLLECTIVE EXPERTISE, RESPOND TO PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY

Influenza is a persistent public health issue, with an average of 12,000 Canadians hospitalized and 3,500 dying from related complications per year. Despite vaccine advances and growing public awareness, there are still many unanswered questions about how to prevent and control influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI). Following a **national consultation in 2013**, the public health community identified five priority areas, all related to gaps in knowledge related to ILI. In the two years that followed, the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) led all National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCs) in a collective project responding to these public health needs.

A suite of new products to address knowledge gaps

Together, the **NCCs produced more than 20 new resources** from multiple perspectives to address several priority areas identified in the national consultation:

- **Vaccine effectiveness, efficacy, efficiency and equity**
  - » Resources **review evidence and models** on vaccine effectiveness and on mandatory vaccines for healthcare workers.



- **Other strategies to prevent influenza and ILI**
  - » Resources focus on non-pharmaceutical measures, and the effectiveness of school closures. They also include case studies that address the equity implications of influenza prevention, and identify lessons learned from pandemic planning in Indigenous communities.
- **Surveillance of influenza and ILI and better estimates of the burden**
  - » Resources explore the determinants of influenza infection in Indigenous populations, including an epidemiological review that outlines the impact of the H1N1 influenza pandemic among First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Other resources present conceptual and methodological measures and modelling to understand the burden of influenza, including an equity model.

Work is underway to develop new resources on other priority areas, including rapid diagnostics, communication and messaging.



### Continued interest in project resources

- A webinar from the NCC for Determinants of Health on health equity and influenza had widespread attendance from health units and regional health authorities from across Canada, as well as participants from NGOs/health charities, hospitals, research centres and insurance companies.
- The NCC for Environmental Health resource on Non-pharmaceutical measures to prevent the transmission of influenza has been downloaded hundreds of times since its original posting.

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*Strengthening public health across Canada: The influence of the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health* is available in its entirety in electronic format (PDF) at [www.nccph.ca](http://www.nccph.ca).

La version française est également disponible au [www.ccnsp.ca](http://www.ccnsp.ca) sous le titre *Appuyer la santé publique partout au Canada – l'influence des Centres de collaboration nationale en santé publique*.

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