

# STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Owens, Governor  
Douglas H. Benevento, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.      Laboratory Services Division  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530      8100 Lowry Blvd.  
Phone (303) 692-2000      Denver, Colorado 80230-6928  
TDD Line (303) 691-7700      (303) 692-3090  
Located in Glendale, Colorado

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## Guidelines for Healthcare Providers Regarding Stockpiling of Tamiflu

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- Outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza (“bird flu”) have been ongoing in poultry in a number of countries in southeast Asia (and most recently Turkey) since late 2003. In addition, a limited number of sporadic human cases and deaths from avian influenza continue to be reported from southeast Asia (Vietnam and Indonesia).
- No sustained or ongoing transmission (spread) of H5N1 avian influenza among humans has occurred in southeast Asia.
- There has been no H5N1 avian influenza in poultry or humans in the US.
- CDPHE strongly discourages healthcare providers from prescribing and the public from requesting Tamiflu (influenza antiviral medication) for private stockpiling purposes, out of concerns for the possibility of an influenza pandemic due to the current avian influenza situation in southeast Asia.
- The highest current priority for use of Tamiflu is for treatment of people during the upcoming regular flu season who are at highest risk from serious complications from influenza infection (e.g. persons >65 years, young children, and persons with certain chronic diseases).
- The next highest priority for use of Tamiflu and other influenza antiviral medications is for prophylaxis in persons at high risk of serious complications from influenza infection who are exposed to influenza (e.g. household in which someone has been diagnosed with influenza or hospital or nursing home with an outbreak of influenza) during the regular flu season.
- There are limited supplies of Tamiflu in the US. Hoarding of this drug now because of concerns about a future pandemic may mean that Tamiflu becomes unavailable for those who need it most during the current regular flu season.
- The indiscriminate and inappropriate use of Tamiflu may promote the development and spread of resistance to this important drug among influenza viruses.
- Steps people can take to keep themselves and others healthy this flu season include: getting their flu shot; covering their cough, stay home from work or school when sick with cough illness; and washing hands after coughing or touching respiratory secretions.