

INFORMATION ON ANTIVIRAL MEDICATIONS FOR INFLUENZA

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What are antiviral medications?

Antiviral flu medications (such as Tamiflu® and Relenza®) are used to treat people who are sick with the flu.

What are antiviral medications used for?

These medications can help people who are sick with influenza. They may decrease symptoms of H1N1 flu and may cut one or two days off the duration of the flu illness. To be most effective, they should be started within the first 48 hours of the illness.

How can I get antiviral medications for the flu?

Antivirals can only be obtained with a healthcare provider prescription. Your healthcare provider will know if an antiviral prescription is appropriate for your situation. If you are sick with symptoms of influenza, be sure to call your health care provider before visiting.

If I receive antiviral medication for the flu, should I still get an influenza immunization?

Antivirals are not a substitute for influenza vaccination. Vaccine will help people to not get sick with influenza. Antiviral medication is a treatment for someone who is sick with the flu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.cdc.gov/flu/
www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/
Thurston County Public Information line 360-709-3080



