

## **Guidelines on Chemoprophylaxis**

Chemoprophylaxis with oseltamivir either for short duration (10 days) or of long duration (42 days) protect the individual till such time he is on Chemoprophylaxis. In a community where there is rampant spread of pandemic Influenza A H1N1, the risk of getting the infection exists the moment a person is taken off Chemoprophylaxis. As prophylaxis cannot be continued in perpetuity, the following is recommended:

- If the States qualify the criteria for community spread, then chemoprophylaxis would only be provided to family contacts that are at high risk and especially those with co-morbid condition.
  - The prophylaxis to the high risk family contact would be provided irrespective of laboratory testing i.e. any high risk contact of patients in category A, B or C would be provided Chemoprophylaxis.
  - The doctors screening the patients and categorizing them as A, B, C would invariably take the history of high risk contacts among the family members of these suspect cases and persuade them to attend screening centres.
- States which does not qualify the criteria of community spread would continue the preventive approach of contact tracing and providing chemoprophylaxis to family contacts, school contacts and social contacts.
- Irrespective of whether there is a community spread or not medical personnel attending to influenza A H1N1 cases in dedicated treatment facilities would be put on Chemoprophylaxis to a maximum of 42 days.