



## Communications/Information Bulletin H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

**Date: September 18, 2009**

### Primary Key Messages:

- **Trends:**
  - Surveillance measures note a decrease in the number of laboratory confirmed cases this past week, and lower reports of consultations rates for influenza-like illness by sentinel physicians. Overall, the province suggests influenza activity in Ontario is low.
  - The population-based hospitalization rate for H1N1 is 2.86 admissions per 100,000 Ontarians, and the population-based mortality rate is 0.18 deaths per 100,000 Ontarians. Over 78 per cent of fatal cases are in individuals over 40 years of age and 87 per cent had underlying chronic medical conditions.
- **This week, the Public Health Agency of Canada released a guidance document on vaccine sequencing for provinces and territories.** This document identifies groups and individuals that will benefit the most from immunization, and those that care for them. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/vacc/vacc-eng.php>
  - The document suggests priority targets for immunization which include:
    - Immuno-compromised and their household contacts/care-givers,
    - Pregnant women
    - Very young children (6 months to 5 years of age)
    - Persons with chronic conditions under age 65
    - Household contacts/caregivers of immuno-compromised and children under 6 months of age)
    - Health care workers
  - Following these priority targets, others who will benefit from immunization include:
    - Children 5 to 18 years of age (inclusive)
    - First responders
    - Poultry and agricultural workers
    - Adults 19 to 64 years of age (inclusive)
    - Adults aged 65 and older
- The Public Health Agency of Canada also released a guidance document for the prevention and management of cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) due to the H1N1 flu virus on cruise ships - <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/hp-ps/cs-pc-eng.php>
- Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to develop guidelines for childcare centres, faith communities and shelters. These are expected to be released shortly.
- **In general, educational settings, organizations and workplaces are not required to take any special actions at this time.** The public should keep doing what they normally do. **Organizations should ensure their influenza pandemic/continuity plans, including their related human resources policies, are current.**

### Surveillance Data (H1N1 Cases):

#### In Ontario:

- Laboratory-confirmed cases: 4062
- Hospitalizations: 370 (cumulative)
- Deaths: 23

#### In Waterloo Region:

- Laboratory-confirmed cases: 38
- Hospitalizations: 9 (cumulative)
- Deaths: 0