



Communications/Information Bulletin
H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

Date: November 13, 2009

Key Messages:

- There continues to be influenza activity in Waterloo Region, although there are signs that the activity is decreasing:
 - Since Sept. 1, 211 cases of influenza A, at varying stages of confirmation of strain - expecting vast majority, if not all, to be H1N1.
 - Fifty-three cases of influenza A have been hospitalized as of Sept. 1. Most have been discharged. Confirmed cases are skewed towards hospitalized and/or severely ill patients. Most cases of H1N1 overall are still mild to moderate.
 - 1 H1N1-confirmed death in a male over 50 years of age; another death in a male under 50 years of age under investigation. Both had underlying medical conditions.
 - Schools absenteeism rates, emergency room visits, and influenza-like illness rates are all lower than in the previous week.

- Earlier today, Region of Waterloo Public Health announced that it is expanding its priority targets for immunization. Individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine include:
 - All children and adolescents 6 months to less than 19 years of age
 - Persons 19 years of age and older - including seniors - with chronic medical conditions
 - Pregnant women and all household contacts (e.g. husbands/partners, children) of pregnant women 30 weeks gestation or more
 - Health care workers, including first responders (EMS, fire, police)
 - Household contacts and care providers of infants <6 months of age, persons who are immune-suppressed and persons in the priority groups who cannot be immunized (e.g. severe egg allergy).

People will be required to verify that they and/or their family members are in a priority group before being immunized.

- Unadjuvanted vaccine, exclusively for pregnant women, is now available. Pregnant women are asked to call their physician or the health unit at 519-883-2272, to make an appointment to receive the vaccine. The unadjuvanted vaccine is not available at the mass public health clinics.

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced its dosing recommendations for children. Ontario will be adopting PHAC's recommendations. They are as follows:

Category	Dosing Recommendation
Age 6 months to less than 3 years	2 half-doses of adjuvanted vaccine There should be a minimum of 21 days between the 2 half-doses.
Age 3 to 9 years - <i>Healthy children</i>	1 half-dose adjuvanted vaccine, for now*
Age 3 to 9 years - <i>Children with chronic medical conditions**</i>	2 half-doses of adjuvanted vaccine There should be a minimum of 21 days between the 2 half-doses.

* These recommendations may be updated as more information becomes available.

** Chronic medical conditions have not been defined yet; information to come.