



Communications/Information Bulletin
H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

Date: November 20, 2009

Key Messages:

- There continues to be influenza activity in Waterloo Region, although activity has been decreasing in the last two weeks:
 - Since Sept.1, 220 cases of influenza A, at varying stages of confirmation of strain - expecting vast majority, if not all, to be H1N1.
 - There are now two confirmed H1N1-related deaths in Waterloo Region. Both individuals were male, adults, and had underlying medical conditions.
 - Schools absenteeism rates, emergency room visits, and influenza-like illness rates are all lower than in the previous week.
 - Both Cambridge Memorial Hospital and Grand River Hospital have closed their Flu Centres due to lack of demand for service
 - While indicators suggest the level of illness in the community is declining, individuals are still becoming ill. Most cases of H1N1 are still mild to moderate.
- Earlier this week, Region of Waterloo Public Health announced that anyone who would like to receive the H1N1 immunization may do so at any of the upcoming community clinics. Upcoming clinics include:
 - November 23 – Waterloo Rec. Complex – 101 Father David Bauer Dr., Waterloo
 - November 24 – Victoria Hills Community Centre – 10 Chopin Dr., - Kitchener
 - November 25 – Waterloo Collegiate Institute – 300 Hazel St., Waterloo
 - November 26 – Glenview Park Secondary School – 55 McKay St., Cambridge
 - November 30 – Kitchener Memorial Auditorium – 400 East Ave., Kitchener
 All clinics run from 2 – 8 p.m.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health is offering unadjuvanted vaccine to pregnant women. Interested individuals 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 province is considering the implementation of workplace clinics for administration of the H1N1 vaccine. More details to follow.
- 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 are defined as conditions “significant enough to require regular medical follow-up.”