



Communications/Information Bulletin  
H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

**Date: November 3, 2009**

**Key Messages:**

- Influenza activity continues to increase provincially and locally, as expected.
  - Since Sept 1, 120 cases of influenza A, at varying stages of confirmation of strain - expecting vast majority, if not all, to be H1N1.
  - Twenty-six confirmed cases have been hospitalized as of Sept. 1. Most have been discharged. Confirmed cases are skewed towards hospitalized and/or severely ill patients.
  - No H1N1-confirmed deaths have been reported.
  - Confirmed cases will always be an under-estimate.
  - Consultation rates for influenza-like illness in doctor's offices continue to increase.
  - Schools continue to report absentee rates of over 10 per cent.
  - Emergency Room visits for influenza-like illness continue to increase; most cases are still mild-moderate.
- Approximately 80 per cent of local family physicians are immunizing their patients with H1N1 flu vaccine. Please ask your employees, clients, etc. to call their family doctor to inquire about how to get their vaccination.
- For those without a family physician, or whose physician is not administering the H1N1 flu vaccine, Public Health has streamlined the H1N1 flu vaccination process in community clinics to minimize wait times.
  - Beginning at the November 3rd clinic, a wristband system will be used. Numbered wristbands will be provided to people in the order they arrive. **Clients should arrive no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the clinic, as line-ups will not be permitted on the property prior to that time. Wristbands will not be distributed until one hour prior to the clinic's start**
- Until further notice, the H1N1 immunization clinics are for people in **priority groups only**. People will be required to verify that they and their family members are in a priority group before receiving a wristband. Priority groups who are eligible to receive the vaccine are:
  - People under 65 years of age with chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes, cancer, etc.)
  - Children 6 months to under 5 years of age
  - Pregnant women
  - Health care workers
  - House contacts and care providers of persons at higher risk who cannot be immunized (e.g. children under 6 months) or may not respond to vaccines (e.g. those who are immune-compromised)
- Pregnant women are invited to call the health unit at 519-883-2272, to make an appointment to receive their vaccine at the Public Health office in Waterloo.
- Public Health continues to update Waterloo Region's pandemic website on a regular basis. The website includes resources and other fact sheets on the H1N1 vaccine, how to care for someone who is ill and what to do if you think you have H1N1 — [www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca](http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca).
- Individuals without internet access can phone 519-883-2289 for H1N1-related information.