



Communications/Information Bulletin H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

Date: October 16, 2009

Key Messages:

- Trends:
 - Provincially, influenza activity was *higher* from October 4 to October 10, compared to the previous week. During this time, there were a total of 84 new confirmed H1N1 cases.
 - The increase in activity was expected given the advent of the fall flu season and increasing numbers of cases in the coming weeks are expected.
 - There are likely many more cases of H1N1 than the number of laboratory confirmed cases being reported; therefore trends are more informative than specific numbers.
- Earlier this week, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released three guidance documents for the **health care sector**:
 - Guidance for Management of Patients with Influenza-like Illness in **Long-Term Care Settings**
 - Guidance for Management of Patients with Influenza-like Illness in **Ambulatory Care Settings**
 - Guidance for Management of Patients with Influenza-like Illness in **Emergency Departments**The documents can be downloaded at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/h1n1/pro/>
- Public Health will release its initial flu immunization clinic dates for the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines next Monday. Refer to Waterloo Region's pandemic website for additional information (<http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/>). Details for future clinics will be released on a weekly basis.
- Public Health's H1N1 general information line is now operational. The general public, workplaces, etc. may call 519-883-2289 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) if they have questions or are seeking information. Outside of these hours, individuals can contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0007.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health released its "H1N1 Flu Virus — Do I have it?" fact sheet. The document provides a brief overview of H1N1 flu virus symptoms and what someone should do if they, or friend or family member, have symptoms — <http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/>
- Region of Waterloo Public Health released its Guidance Document for Faith Communities — <http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/index.shtml>.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada released a comprehensive H1N1 flu virus preparedness guide that provides Canadians with information about the H1N1 flu virus, steps they can take to protect themselves, and what to do if they, or their family members, get sick — http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2009/2009_1013b-eng.php

H1N1 Cases – Waterloo Region (since Sept. 1, 2009):

- 7 lab-confirmed cases of H1N1
- 2 hospitalizations; none currently hospitalized
- View our Weekly Local Influenza Surveillance Bulletin at http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/newsarchives/resources/WeeklyBulletin_Oct15.pdf for more local surveillance details (Note, information in the bulletin is current as of October 10th)