



Communications/Information Bulletin  
H1N1 Flu Virus Pandemic

**Date: October 23, 2009**

**Key Messages:**

- Trends:
  - H1N1 cases continue to increase locally and across the province.
  - There are likely many more cases of H1N1 than the number of laboratory confirmed cases, as most cases are not tested; therefore trends are more informative than specific numbers.
  - This increase in activity was expected given the advent of the fall flu season, and increasing numbers of cases in the coming weeks are expected.
- Earlier this week, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released an Important Health Notice about access to supplies and equipment:
  - The MOHLTC is facilitating access for **healthcare providers** to the provincial stockpile of infection control supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Community-based healthcare providers and long-term care homes will be provided access first, followed by other healthcare providers and organizations.  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health\\_notices/ihn\\_20091022.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/health_notices/ihn_20091022.pdf)
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is currently working to distribute antivirals to over 3000 pharmacies across the province. Pharmacies should receive their allotment sometime next week.
- Public Health released its initial flu immunization clinic dates for the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines. Refer to Waterloo Region's pandemic website for additional information (<http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/>) or phone our pre-recorded information line at 519-883-2324. **Clinics will be held throughout November and December.** Details for future clinics will be released on a weekly basis.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health has released "Caring for Someone who is Sick" and "H1N1 Flu Vaccine" fact sheets (the latter will be uploaded on website by tomorrow). The documents provide an overview of the vaccine and how to care for someone with influenza-like-illness symptoms — <http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/>
- 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.
- The International Centre for infectious Diseases, sponsored by the Public Health Agency of Canada is hosting a series of seminars and webinars on pandemic planning for small and medium businesses. Kitchener's seminar is scheduled for Oct. 28 — <http://www.businessfluplan.ca/home>

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

- As of Oct. 17, 2009, 14 lab-confirmed cases of H1N1; 4 hospitalizations; none currently hospitalized
- Note: numbers are updated on a weekly basis. View our Weekly Local Influenza Surveillance Bulletin at [http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/newsarchives/resources/WeeklyBulletin\\_Oct21.pdf](http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/newsarchives/resources/WeeklyBulletin_Oct21.pdf) for more local surveillance details, including trends with respect to primary care consultation rates for influenza-like illness, emergency room visits and school absenteeism.