

Media Update

H1N1 Flu Virus

Oct 21st, 2009 - For immediate release

The first shipment of the H1N1 vaccine has arrived and the Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) will be running immunization clinics beginning next week. Since the H1N1 vaccine will not be available at the same time for everyone, the THU will administer the first doses to people who will benefit the most. This includes:

- People 65 and under with chronic conditions
- Pregnant women
- Healthy children 6 months to under five years of age;
- People living in remote or isolated communities;
- Health care workers; and
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines

People age 10 and over will require one dose of the H1N1 vaccine for full immunity and children under 10 years old will require two doses, a minimum of 21 days apart. The H1N1 flu vaccine is not approved for children under six months.

Ontario is recommending that all pregnant women with pre-existing health conditions and healthy pregnant women in the second half of their pregnancy (more than 20 weeks) should speak to their health care provider about receiving the adjuvanted vaccine. An adjuvant is a substance that is added to a vaccine in order to boost the individual's response.

Healthy pregnant women in the first half of their pregnancy are at less risk of complications from the flu, and should wait to receive the unadjuvanted vaccine, when it is available.

Clinics details are as follows:

Kirkland Lake (Legion)	October 27 th	1-9pm
Temiskaming Shores (Dymond Hall)	October 30 th	1-9pm
Englehart (Community Centre)	November 3 rd	1-9pm

Those attending the clinics will require their health card or a valid driver's license.

Additional shipments of the vaccine will arrive at a later date and there will be enough vaccine for everyone in Timiskaming who wants and needs it. Additional clinics are scheduled to run beginning the week of November 2nd. Immunization will take place in schools beginning the week of November 9th.

The seasonal flu shot is still available to those 65 years of age or older. For more information, please contact the THU.

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