

Media Update

H1N1 Flu Virus



November 12, 2009 - For immediate release

Timiskaming - The Sudbury Regional Hospital has confirmed a H1N1 related death of a Timiskaming resident. The individual passed away yesterday in Sudbury. Dr. Pat Logan, Acting Medical Officer of Health, said yesterday's death is the second fatality in Timiskaming linked to H1N1. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and friends who have lost their loved ones. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time". This is a very unfortunate reality related to the H1N1 pandemic" adds Dr. Logan.

The first death occurred at the Temiskaming Hospital on November 5, 2009. Serious underlying medical conditions put this individual at increased risk for complications related to H1N1. At this time, it is unknown if medical conditions were present in the second death, or if this contributed to the cause of death.

Approximately 300 deaths related to seasonal flu are reported in Ontario every year. As of November 10, there have been 52 deaths in Ontario related to the H1N1 flu virus.

Although H1N1 is a relatively mild strain of influenza, it can still be a serious illness. People with pre-existing medical conditions are more likely to suffer from severe consequences of influenza. The majority of deaths reported to date have been among people with underlying medical conditions.

As of November 10, 2009, 45 lab confirmed cases have been reported among Timiskaming residents. This underestimates the number of people who have been ill with H1N1 as most cases are mild, recover at home, do not require medical care and therefore are not tested.

The Timiskaming Health Unit continues with its H1N1 vaccine community clinics to reach priority groups across the district, first responders such as police and firefighters, and elementary and high school students. Pregnant women who wish to receive the unadjuvanted vaccine can contact one of the health unit offices.

For more information on clinic times and schedule please visit www.timiskaminghu.com or contact one of the THU offices.

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