

H1N1 Flu Virus Vaccination Clinics in Niagara

NIAGARA REGION, October 21, 2009 – Niagara Region Public Health will begin H1N1 flu virus vaccination clinics on Monday, October 26, 2009. The vaccination has received all necessary approvals by Health Canada and is now being distributed to public health units so those who need and want it can receive it.

“The vaccine is our number one preventive measure against the spread of H1N1 in our community. The vaccine is safe and effective and we encourage residents to speak with their health care provider if they have any questions whether the vaccine is right for them,” states Dr. Robin Williams, Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region. “H1N1 is different than seasonal flu and is unpredictably affecting increasing numbers of our population, especially the younger generation, so it is imperative to get vaccinated against H1N1.”

Priority groups for the vaccine have been identified at a federal level and we prefer to vaccinate people who need it most first, but are committed to making it available over time to everyone. Those individuals who need it the most include (in no particular order):

- People under 65 with chronic medical conditions
- Pregnant women greater than 20 weeks or pregnant women at any stage with other medical conditions
- Children 6 months up to 5 years of age
- Health care workers and their support staff involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services
- First responders
- Poultry and swine workers
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines such as infants less than six months of age and persons who are immunocompromised.

For a full schedule of clinic locations, dates, and times, please visit the Niagara Region website at www.niagararegion.ca.

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Contact:
Dr. Robin Williams
Medical Officer of Health
905-688-8248, ext. 7338 or 1-888-505-6074