

Communications Office

Peterborough County-City Health Unit
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Confirmed in Peterborough Region

Peterborough County-City Health Unit Reports Both Cases Have Recovered

Monday, July 6, 2009, Peterborough

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit, reported today that Peterborough has its first two confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Both cases are unrelated.

“Like almost all of the cases that have been identified in Canada to date, both individuals have recovered. One, an infant, was hospitalized but has since been discharged,” Dr. Pellizzari stated. “We know that one individual acquired the illness here, and are unsure whether the second case became infected with H1N1 in Peterborough or during a recent trip to Europe,” she added.

The number of cases in Ontario has reached 3,464 as of July 3. More cases are expected, however Dr. Pellizzari stressed there is no cause for alarm. Seasonal influenza activity in Peterborough has subsided but the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza virus is still circulating in several health units across Ontario. The number of patients presenting to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Emergency Room with respiratory symptoms continues to be normal for this time of year.

The message to the public is the same as it would be for any flu season. The best way to protect ourselves from getting the flu is good infection control practices. “If we want to minimize the transmission of influenza, people need to stay at home when they are ill. That will stop some transmission, but not all, as some people can still spread the illness while they are well. We should all be washing our hands often and practicing good respiratory etiquette,” said Dr. Pellizzari.

People can find information about the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus and steps to protect themselves from the flu at our updated website, www.pcchu.ca.

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For further information, please contact:

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