

Communications Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics for Priority Groups Only Until Further Notice

Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Arlene King Directs Health Units to Immunize High Risk Groups Only Due to Limited Vaccine Supply

Friday, October 30, 2009, Peterborough

Follow today's directive from Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, all H1N1 vaccination clinics planned by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit will focus on priority groups only until further notice due to limited vaccine supply.

This change means that clinics set to start on October 31 for all local residents will now only be vaccinating individuals in priority groups.

The six priority groups include:

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

Dr. King reassured Ontario residents that in a few weeks, there will be enough vaccine to immunize everyone who needs it and wants it. "If you are not in a priority group, please be patient and respect the sequencing," she stated during today's news conference. "We will not be immunizing people who do not fall under the six priority groups. Wait to get your vaccine once those who will benefit most have received it."

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Peterborough's Medical Officer of Health echoed Dr. King's call for patience and said while some will need to wait, she offered reassurance that the vaccine will be available to all residents in Peterborough city and county. "We want to give priority groups every chance to be immunized, and will begin to broaden our immunization program to others when we have more supply."

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For further information, please contact:

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