

Communications Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drop-in Influenza Assessment Clinic for Medical Centre Patients Discontinued Due to Waning Demand

Physicians to Continue Seeing Their Patients By Appointment

Tuesday, November 10, 2009, Peterborough

Due to a decline in demand for visits from patients with influenza symptoms, the Peterborough County-City Health Unit stated that the Medical Centre has discontinued its drop-in assessment clinic effective today.

Patients with influenza-like illness who require medical assessment should contact their primary care providers for a same-day appointment.

The drop-in influenza assessment clinic was set up by the Medical Centre as a temporary measure to increase the primary care capacity to handle the recent surge of patients seeking medical attention resulting from the second wave of the H1N1 flu virus.

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health for our area, commended local primary healthcare professionals for their swift response to the community's medical needs. "Their response to H1N1 has shown us how effectively our physicians, nurse practitioners, the hospital and other primary care providers can work together when urgent needs arise. This experience has also given us a clear sense of our local health system's surge capacity to handle major health events, which is very reassuring."

Dr. Pellizzari noted that while influenza-like illness rates appear to be declining, it is still a good idea to get immunized against the pH1N1 influenza virus at one of the health unit's immunization clinics or at their physician's office. "H1N1 will continue to circulate all winter long, so even if we've seen the peak, the vaccine will still provide protection for the rest of the flu season. I'm hoping the community will continue to take advantage of immunization, when available."

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For further information, please contact:

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