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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Unit Leads the Province in Release of New Pandemic Influenza Plan

Revised Plan Incorporates Lessons Learned from H1N1

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Today the Peterborough County-City Health Unit became one of the first health units in the province to release its revised Pandemic Influenza Plan which includes the important lessons learned from the recent H1N1 outbreak.

"I'm proud of how effectively Health Unit staff synthesized what we learned locally during the H1N1 experience and incorporated it into the new plan to ensure our community is well prepared for the next influenza pandemic," said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health for the Health Unit. "The collective expertise of our local healthcare community is also reflected in this plan as it includes important contributions from the medical staff of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre and the primary care sector."

The 176-page document is designed to guide Health Unit activities during a pandemic response, including communications; surveillance; public health measures; patient assessment, treatment and referrals, and many others. The goal of the Pandemic Influenza Plan is to reduce sickness and death, and to minimize societal disruption among the residents of Peterborough City and County. It is a living document that is regularly reviewed and amended, as required, based on new scientific developments; the latest data from provincial, federal and international pandemic planning agencies as well as changes to local planning information from local municipalities.

To view the new Pandemic Influenza Plan, visit www.pcchu.ca/pandemicplan.

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