

Communications Office

Peterborough County-City Health Unit
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www.pcchu.ca



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Unit Ready to Launch H1N1 Flu Vaccination Campaign

High-Risk Groups to be Immunized First, Followed By Clinics for All Residents

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, Peterborough

Following Health Canada's approval of the H1N1 vaccine today, the Peterborough County-City Health Unit (PCCHU) announced it is ready to begin immunizing local residents in free clinics across the city and county, starting with high-risk groups on Monday, October 26.

"We hope all our residents will take advantage of the many opportunities in the upcoming weeks to protect themselves, their families and the community against the H1N1 virus," said Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health of the PCCHU. "The adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine is not only safe but the single most effective ways to stop the spread of influenza this year."

Dr. Pellizzari explained that clinics will take place in highly accessible locations so anyone in the city or county who wants to avoid contracting the H1N1 flu virus can easily get immunized. Once priority groups are immunized, all residents will be encouraged to visit clinics which will run into the evenings six days per week. The non-adjuvanted vaccine is expected to be approved later in November.

Priority groups who will receive the H1N1 vaccination first includes health care workers, people under 65 years with chronic conditions, children aged 6 months to 5 years, and household contacts and care providers of infants less than 6 months or immunocompromised individuals. Children under 10 will require two half doses at least 21 days apart.

Clinics are planned to take place in a variety of locations such as malls and in community centres in the city and county. Clinics have also been planned in every school in PCCHU's jurisdiction for students and staff. Parents will receive consent forms as well as details of clinic dates and times from the schools directly.

The PCCHU community clinics will be paperless so people are asked to bring their Ontario Health Cards as well as their driver's licenses if possible for swiping into the Clinic Electronic Management System. If local residents do not have their Ontario Health Cards with them, they will still be vaccinated.

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A full schedule of clinic dates and times will be posted on www.pcchu.ca and promoted widely throughout the community as soon as they are finalized.

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For further information, please contact:

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