



Perth District
Health Unit

More information on second dose of H1N1 vaccine for children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, November 16, 2009

Perth County — More information is available regarding the need of a second dose of H1N1 vaccine for some children. It is recommended that:

- Healthy children 3 to under 10 years of age receive only one half-dose of the adjuvanted H1N1 influenza vaccine at this time;
- Children who are 6 months to under 3 years of age receive two half-doses of the adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine, given at least 21 days apart; and
- Children 3 to under 10 years of age who have a compromised immune system receive two half-doses of the H1N1 vaccine, given at least 21 days apart. Children in this age group who have other chronic medical conditions that may increase their risk of influenza-related complications may also benefit from receiving two half-doses of the vaccine. According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, those chronic conditions are:
 - cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis and asthma);
 - diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases;
 - cancer, immunodeficiency, immunosuppression (due to underlying disease and/or therapy);
 - renal disease;
 - anaemia or hemoglobinopathy;
 - conditions that compromise the management of respiratory secretions and are associated with an increased risk of aspiration; or
 - children and adolescents with conditions treated for long periods with acetylsalicylic acid.

“We want to make sure that the children who really need a second dose get it,” said Dr. Miriam Klassen, Acting Medical Officer of Health. “Information is changing daily, and we are making every effort to inform the public of important information as soon as we receive it.”

The Perth District Health Unit has announced all children 18 years and under are now able to receive the H1N1 vaccine, as well as people 65 years of age and over (especially those with chronic medical conditions). Clinics are open to the following priority groups:

- Healthy children 6 months to 18 years of age
- People of any age with chronic medical conditions
- Pregnant women (note: the unadjuvanted vaccine will be available)
- First responders (police and fire)
- Health care workers; and
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines (e.g. infants under six months of age).

If you do not fall into a priority group, you will not be vaccinated and the Health Unit asks for your patience and respect of the sequencing. The Health Unit will inform the public when other residents should receive their vaccine.

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PERTH DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

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More Info on H1N1 Vaccine cont'd

The clinics currently scheduled include:

Stratford

Monday, November 16

Friday, November 20

2:00 – 7:30pm

Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road

Mitchell

Tuesday, November 17

2:00 – 7:30pm

Mitchell Golf and Country Club, 81 Frances Street

Listowel

Wednesday, November 18

2:00 – 7:30pm

Listowel District Secondary School, 155 Maitland Avenue South

St. Marys

Thursday, November 19

2:00 – 7:30pm

St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James Street South

PLEASE NOTE: Clinic schedules are being planned on a day to day basis due to vaccine supply issues so it is critical that residents check our website at www.pdhu.on.ca or call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext 267 (Listowel area call 1-877-271-7348 ext 267), and listen to CJCS/Mix FM or CKNX on the day of the clinic to find out if clinics have been cancelled or closed early.

Anyone coming to the clinics should bring their Health Card and Driver's License (if applicable). If you do not have either of these cards, you will still be able to receive the vaccine.

For more information and for a schedule of H1N1 influenza vaccine clinics, visit our website at www.pdhu.on.ca (click on "It's a different flu season"), or call Health Line at 519-271-7600 ext 267. Listowel area residents call 1-877-271-7348 ext 267.

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