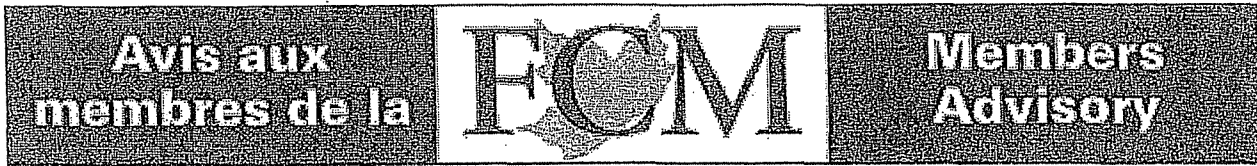


HE-C2



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June 22, 2009

Please Distribute to All Members of Council

**MEMBERS' ADVISORY
H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE FOR MUNICIPALITIES**

As you may be aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently announced that it has moved to Phase 6 in the WHO Global Influenza Preparedness Plan. In doing so, the WHO underscored:

- The decision is based on the spread of the virus and not the severity of illness it causes. The virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in more than three countries across two WHO regions;
- In general, the H1N1 flu virus continues to cause moderate illness globally with most people affected recovering at home without medical treatment. For instance, in Canada, most infections to date have been mild; and,
- That borders should remain open.

Earlier this year, FCM prepared a comprehensive report with a series of recommendations regarding the state of pandemic planning in Canada. The release of this report has been postponed indefinitely due to the H1N1 outbreak.

Nevertheless, the report's findings have enabled us to effectively engage the federal government in strengthening the federal-municipal partnership in the national response to this emerging crisis.

FCM has raised specific concerns with Government of Canada officials, in particular the distribution of anti-viral medication to essential front-line municipal employees, and ensuring that resources are in place to allow municipalities to perform the duties expected of them by other orders of government.

The FCM President recently voiced these concerns directly in a conversation with the Minister of Health, who expressed her willingness to work with municipalities. FCM will continue to present municipalities as an important partner in mitigating and responding to a pandemic.

For more information on the WHO Global Influenza Preparedness Plan phases, please refer to www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/

For information on what Pandemic Phase 6 means for Canada, advice to Canadians, and information from every jurisdiction on influenza and how to keep you and your family healthy, please visit www.fightflu.ca.

For further information, please contact Joshua Bates, Policy Advisor, at jbates@fcm.ca or 613-907-6234

2009-06-25

REFERRAL TO _____
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