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FROM:

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**Return of Influenza Vaccine From
2007/08 Season**

**TO ALL PEEL REGION PHYSICIANS
ADMINISTERING PUBLICLY-FUNDED
VACCINES:**

Please return all unused influenza vaccine from the 2007/08 season to Peel Public Health at your usual vaccine pick-up site by **August 20, 2008**.

While sorting through unused influenza vaccine, you may notice other expired vaccines. These may be returned to Peel Public Health along with unused influenza vaccine.

Place returned influenza and expired vaccines in a plastic bag clearly labelled with the following information:

- 1. Doctor's name and practice name**
- 2. Phone number**

Return the bagged vaccine to your usual Peel Public Health pick-up site for appropriate disposal.

2008/09 Influenza Season:

Peel Public Health has not yet received any information regarding vaccine from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the 2008/2009 influenza season. Peel Public Health will notify your office when this information becomes available.

Should you have any questions, please contact Peel Public Health at (905) 799-7700.

Air Quality Health Index

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a new tool that indicates the level of health risk associated with local air quality.

- The AQHI was developed through a partnership between environment Canada, Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Toronto Public Health and other key stakeholders..
- The **Air Quality Health Index**, launched in the GTA in June 2008, is a simple 10 point scale: The higher the number, the greater the health risk.
- The AQHI is being used alongside the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Air Quality Index (AQI). While the AQI is not based on health effects, it remains the index on which smog advisories are triggered.
- The AQHI is calculated based on the risk from 3 indicator pollutants (ozone, particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) which reflects the cumulative health impacts from multiple pollutants. In comparison, the Air Quality Index (AQI) only reports on the highest single reading from multiple pollutants.
- In the Region of Peel, individuals can access AQHI readings for City of Mississauga and Brampton. The AQHI reading for Caledon is taken from the monitoring station in Newmarket.
- The Air Quality Health Index provides targeted health messages for the at-risk and general populations.

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- Hourly updates as well as next day forecasts of the AQHI are provided, allowing the public time to modify activities.
- Patients (especially at risk populations), should be informed of the AQHI and reminded to check the AQHI levels daily at: www.airhealth.ca.

AQHI messaging to relay to your patients is included below:

Health Risk	Air Quality Health Index	Health Messages	
		At Risk Population*	General Population
Low Risk	1 - 3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.
Moderate Risk	4 - 6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
High Risk	7 - 10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
Very High Risk	Above 10	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.

*At risk populations include children, the elderly, people with existing respiratory and heart problems and people who work outdoors.