

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pandemic H1N1-2009 vaccine delivery ▪ Confirmation of participation ▪ Physician reimbursement 	<p>FROM: David L. Mowat, MBChB MPH FRCPC Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Peel Public Health has received confirmation and authorization from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to invite physicians to participate in the pandemic H1N1 influenza immunization program.

The MOHLTC and Peel Public Health are requesting all physicians who wish to participate to review the following information and **the two attachments:** H1N1 Vaccine Request Form and H1N1-2009 Immunization Data Collection Tool.

Pandemic H1N1 vaccine considerations and delivery requirements

- Pandemic H1N1-2009 vaccine is currently being supplied to Public Health and subsequently to participating physicians in boxes (roughly the size of a shoebox) containing 500 doses. Each box will contain 50 vials of antigen and 50 vials of adjuvant.
- The vaccine must be reconstituted before administration. The adjuvant emulsion must be withdrawn and added into the antigen suspension and mixed, thus producing a multidose vial containing 10 doses.
- Doses not used within 24 hours of reconstitution must be discarded.

To ensure the safety, security and tracking of H1N1-2009 vaccine, all those who wish to participate in the pH1N1 immunization program are requested by the MOHLTC to meet the following criteria:

- Store vaccine and maintain vaccine cold chain as per the current MOHLTC vaccine storage and handling guidelines (available at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/protocols/vaccine_storage_handling.pdf)

- Collect, on a weekly basis, the aggregate data outlined in the attached H1N1-2009 Immunization Data Collection Tool. Further details on this will follow.
- Administer vaccine to the recommended groups as defined by the MOHLTC. These groups were described in our September 29, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 32 HPU and are listed on the attached H1N1 Vaccine Request Form
- Maintain a record of each vaccinated patient that includes date of H1N1 vaccine administration, dose, lot number(s) and name of vaccine provider. If lot safety should come into question, practitioners should be able to produce a list of patients receiving vaccine from an identified vaccine lot.
- Provide patients with a record of H1N1 immunization.
- Document and report any adverse event following immunization (AEFI) as required under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990*

Confirmation of participation

All physicians who would like participate in the H1N1-2009 immunization program and agree to meet the above criteria can begin ordering vaccine immediately, using the attached **H1N1 Vaccine Request Form**. In this way, we can ensure timely release of the vaccine once it is received by Peel Public Health from the MOHLTC.

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To facilitate processing of vaccine orders and reduce vaccine wastage, physicians are asked to:

- Pick up their vaccine order from Peel Public Health within 1 business day from notification that your order is available for pick-up.
- The H1N1-2009 vaccine is currently supplied only in 500 dose boxes. If you feel you may not be able to deliver a high volume of H1N1 vaccine in your practice, you may wish to consider sending your patients to a Public Health Immunization Clinic to receive H1N1-2009 vaccine.

There may be a future possibility that smaller batch sizes will be available from the manufacturer. Should this occur, Peel Public Health will be able to process smaller orders, that is, orders that are less than 500 doses.

Dosing

Current information on dosing is:

Age	Dosage (ml)	Number of doses required
6 months to 9 years*	0.25	2
10 years and older**	0.5	1
Pregnant women***	0.5	1

*Adjuvanted vaccine is recommended due to enhanced immunogenicity. Interval between doses is a minimum of 21 days.

**Adjuvanted vaccine

***Unadjuvanted vaccine is the preferred option for pregnant women. If unadjuvanted vaccine is not available and if pH1N1 activity is increasing or high, pregnant women in the second half of pregnancy should be offered adjuvanted vaccine.

More detailed information on the vaccine will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Simultaneous Administration of Other Vaccines

- H1N1-2009 vaccine may be administered concurrently (but in the opposite arm) with seasonal influenza vaccine and/or other vaccines.
- If not administered concurrently, there is no minimum interval required between the two influenza vaccines.
- If H1N1-2009 vaccine is administered at the same time as both seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, the latter two vaccines should be given in the arm opposite that used for the H1N1-2009 vaccine.

Physician reimbursement

Physicians will be reimbursed through OHIP and/or through other primary care billing mechanisms.

Peel Public Health H1N1 Immunization Clinics
Public Health H1N1-2009 Immunization Clinics will be held throughout Peel Region and will have extended hours to facilitate public access. Further details on these clinics will be provided to you through upcoming Health Professionals Updates (HPUs).

Questions regarding H1N1-2009 vaccine ordering can be directed to the Vaccine Order Desk at **905-791-7800 x6404**.

For more information regarding H1N1 immunization, including public health clinics, contact Peel Public Health at **905-799-7700**.