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H1N1-2009 Vaccine availability and delivery

Peel Public Health has delivered 110 H1N1 vaccine orders to Peel physician offices to date. In addition, vaccine deliveries to Peel area hospitals occurred on October 27th.

Health departments have been informed that there will be decreased H1N1 vaccine available from the vaccine manufacturer over the next two weeks. Although we will have less available vaccine, Peel Public Health will still be delivering as much vaccine as possible to physicians in an effort to ensure maximal vaccine uptake as quickly as possible.

Further, in order to provide faster access to vaccine to more physician practices, physicians who have ordered large volumes will have only part of their order filled at this time. The remainder will be filled when Peel Public Health receives more vaccine from the MOHLTC.

In order to interrupt transmission of the virus as well as protect those most at risk of serious complications we ask that you provide H1N1 vaccine to as many of your priority group patients as possible, as quickly as possible.

Vaccine Utilization Monitoring

- To enable Peel Public Health to monitor H1N1 vaccine doses used and vaccine wastage, please fax this data weekly to the Vaccine Order Desk at **905-793-4858**.
- If you are unable to use all the H1N1 vaccine that you have ordered within one week, please call the Vaccine Order Desk at 905-791-7800 x6404 to reduce your order.

Services for pregnant woman and children under 1 year of age

Important points for consideration in providing the H1N1-2009 vaccine to pregnant women and children 6m-12m of age include:

- Peel Public Health does not provide vaccines to pregnant women or children under 1 year of age at our public clinics.
- All pregnant women with pre-existing health conditions and healthy pregnant women more than 20 weeks gestation should be offered the adjuvanted vaccine.
- Healthy pregnant women in the first half of their pregnancy are at less risk of complications from the flu, and may wish to wait to receive the unadjuvanted vaccine.
- **It is expected that unadjuvanted vaccine will be delivered to Peel Public Health by November 6th.**
- Patients can call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 for vaccine provision options for pregnant women in Peel who cannot obtain the vaccine from their family doctor.

Egg Allergy Recommendation and H1N1-2009 Vaccine

The Canadian Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology issued a statement for the administration of both the H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines to those patients with egg allergies. The full statement is attached.

Low Risk for anaphylaxis:

- (mild gastrointestinal or local skin reaction, have tolerated ingestion of small amounts of egg, or have positive skin/specific IgE tests to egg)
- Administer vaccine and observe for 60 min.

High Risk for Anaphylaxis:

(previous respiratory or cardiovascular reaction or generalized hives to egg exposure)

- Administer 10% of dose followed by 30 min. observation
- If no reaction, administer remaining 90% of dose and observe for 60min.

Fish allergies and the H1N1-2009 adjuvanted vaccine

Persons with fish allergies **can** receive the adjuvanted vaccine. Any protein in the shark-derived squalene that would cause an allergic response was eliminated by the purification process used during vaccine production. Furthermore, squalene itself is naturally present in the human body.

Flu Assessment Centres

The Region of Peel has begun intensive efforts to open flu assessment centres. The purpose of these centres is to provide timely assessment of ambulatory ILI patients and reduce the burden on ERs and Family doctors. There will be a location in both Brampton and Mississauga, and they are expected to be operational sometime during the week of November 9th. Health-care professionals at these centres will assess people and provide medication and advice.

Peel Health is still looking for physicians to work shifts in these ambulatory centres. Should you be interested in working at a flu assessment centre, please call Barbara Fowler at 905-791-7800 ext 2516.

Note: The H1N1 vaccine will not be offered at these flu assessment centres.

H1N1-2009 Q and A's

Please find attached the MOHLTC's H1N1-2009 Q and A documents. This document will answer most questions you or your patients may have regarding the virus and the vaccine. It is available on our Health Professionals website. All our HPUs related to H1N1 and other topics can also be found on this website for your review. Visit <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/updates2009.htm>

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

In order to respond to the high volume of inquiries from physicians, Peel Public Health is working to secure a dedicated phone line for physician questions. We will inform you when this additional service becomes available.

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

For the latest Peel Public Health H1N1 Vaccine Clinic schedule, visit <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/topics/commdisese/h1n1-clinic-sched.htm>