

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H1N1-2009 vaccine distribution update ▪ Expansion of Vaccine Priority Groups ▪ Flu assessment centres 	<p>FROM: David L. Mowat, MBChB MPH FRCPC Medical Officer of Health</p>
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H1N1-2009 vaccine distribution update

Arepanrix™ vaccine - adjuvanted

- The province has provided Peel Public Health with 100 dose packages of H1N1 Arepanrix™ vaccine.
- In order to widen access to vaccine, Peel Public Health will partially fill all first time orders by the end of this week with shipments of 100 doses. We know this is a small amount of vaccine in comparison to demand in your practices but we kindly urge you to use this in the priority groups until more arrives.
- We will complete the remainder of orders as soon as sufficient vaccine supply becomes available.

Panvax® vaccine - unadjuvanted

- Peel Public Health has received a small supply of Australian non-adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine (Panvax®) for use in pregnant women.
- Physicians may order Panvax® vaccine for their pregnant patients with the attached order form. Pregnant women require a single dose of 0.5mL IM Panvax® vaccine.
- The vaccine comes in a box of 10 vials for a total of 100 doses.
- The vials can be kept under cold chain for 12 months. Once a multidose vial has been pierced, the vial can be kept under cold chain conditions for 28 days. After 28 days, opened vials must be discarded. To reduce wastage, Peel Public Health requests that physicians consider their ability to use the vaccine and order accordingly.

- Additional information on Panvax® administration, storage and handling is available in the attached Question and Answer document. The product monograph and the Public Health Agency of Canada guidance document is posted on the Peel Public Health website at:
<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/updates2009.htm>

Peel Public Health will notify providers when the Canadian unadjuvanted H1N1 product becomes available.

Expansion of Vaccine Priority Groups

The H1N1 immunization program has now expanded to include:

- first responders (police and firefighters)
- frontline institutional correctional workers
- people aged 65 and over who live in institutions like long-term care homes

As more vaccine is received, the MOHLTC will continue to expand the H1N1 immunization program. It is expected that there should be enough vaccine for everyone who needs and wants it by the end of the year

Flu Assessment Centres

The Region of Peel has opened two flu assessment centres this week. The centres are open from 3:00pm -10:00pm daily at:

- Frank McKechnie Community Centre, Mississauga
- Century Gardens Recreation Centre, Brampton

We invite physicians to redirect patients who cannot be seen during regular clinic hours to the flu assessment centres. After-hours, you may use a recorded office message directing patients to the flu assessment centres. This will assist in easing the burden of mild and moderate ILI patients on our local ERs.

Arepanrix™ vaccine – administration tips

- Warming the adjuvant and antigen vials to room temperature may allow the adjuvant and antigen to mix together easier and decrease discomfort at the injection site.
- A 1 inch, 20 gauge needle is recommended for adjuvant withdrawal and transfer to the antigen vial to facilitate ease of withdrawal and mixing.
- Once the syringe is loaded with the dose, switch to a new 22-25 gauge needle of appropriate length for the patient.
- A reconstituted vial is stable at room temperature for 24 hours (although maintaining the vaccine within cold chain is best practice).
- The stability of the mixed vaccine in a syringe is uncertain. It is recommended that a dose be administered within 30 minutes of withdrawal from the vial.

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

In the routine course of post-market surveillance, all AEFI should be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health. Please use the attached form to report any adverse event that, in your opinion, may be related to the administration of an immunizing agent within seven days after the event is recognized. Fax the form to 905-793-2114. This form is also available on our website at: <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/updates2009.htm>

Mass Vaccination Clinics

As of today, Peel Public Health has reopened its mass H1N1 vaccination clinics. For the latest clinic schedule, visit <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/topics/commdisease/h1n1-clinic-sched.htm>

For more information regarding H1N1 immunization contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.