

<p>IN THIS ISSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seasonal Influenza Vaccine ▪ H1N1 – Second Dose Administration ▪ Current Influenza Epidemiology 	<p>FROM: David L. Mowat, MBChB MPH FRCPC Medical Officer of Health</p>
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Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has launched phase three of this season’s influenza immunization campaign. The seasonal influenza vaccine is now available to the general public.
- Peel physicians can place orders for the seasonal influenza vaccine using the **attached** order form.
- Beginning December 14th, seasonal influenza vaccine orders will be ready for pick-up two business days after the order is received.
- Peel Public Health will run one week of seasonal influenza clinics for the public on January 9, 10, and 11th at three locations across the Peel region. Times and locations will soon be posted on our website at <http://www.peelregion.ca/flu/clinics/>
- The seasonal influenza vaccine can be given concurrently with H1N1 vaccine in contralateral arms.

H1N1 - Second Dose Administration

Reminder: a second dose of H1N1 influenza vaccine is required for individuals:

- 6 months of age to under 3 years of age
- 3 years of age to 9 years of age (under 10) with a chronic medical condition
- The second dose should be administered a minimum of 21 days after the first dose. Peel Public Health will be holding second dose clinics January 5, 6, 7 and 8th. Times and locations will soon be posted on our website at <http://www.peelregion.ca/flu/clinics/>

- You may order additional H1N1 vaccine at any time to provide your patients with a second dose as required.

Note: Peel Public Health will no longer deliver H1N1 vaccine to physicians’ offices after December 18th. After that date, the H1N1 vaccine will be available for pick-up at your usual pick-up locations. All Peel Health clinic locations will resume normal business hours on December 14th.

Influenza Epidemiology

Attached please find an overview of the current influenza epidemiology in Ontario and Peel.

Highlights include:

- Approximately 20% of Peel residents have been vaccinated against pH1N1 influenza in only six weeks
- Due to pre-existing immunity, immunity from infection, and vaccination, between 40-60% of the Peel population may be protected against circulating pH1N1.
- This means that 40-60% of the population is still susceptible and lower level transmission of pH1N1 will continue. **We therefore recommend that you continue to vaccinate your patients for H1N1, especially those who are in high risk groups.**
- Less than 1% of circulating influenza strains are seasonal. Therefore, the current risk of influenza from seasonal influenza is low.