

Health **FAX**

H1N1 Vaccine Distribution Update

Attention: **Physicians, Long-Term Care Homes, Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics, Rest & Retirement Homes, Ambulance, CCAC, Occupational Health Professionals, Midwives**

Date: November 12, 2009

A Message from the Medical Officer of Health

Effective with our announcement this afternoon at 3:15 PM, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is expanding the eligibility to receive the adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine to include **all children from the age of 6 months up to and including 18 years**. This expansion is unique to our health unit at this time and applies to all the health unit public clinics, physician practices and other vaccine delivery agents to which we distribute the vaccine.

Thus all other sequence 1 risk groups are still covered and these include:

- **All those aged 65 years or more with underlying medical conditions (also unique to SMDHU)**
- All those aged 65 years or more in Long-Term care
- All EMS, fire and police first responders, and front line institutional corrections workers
- All those below the age of 65 years with underlying medical conditions
- Pregnant women
- All health care workers (including student health care workers and volunteers)
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines (e.g. children under 6 months of age)

Further, we would like to clarify that the H1N1 adjuvanted vaccine may be given at the same time, but in different locations (arms), as the seasonal influenza vaccine. [<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/vacc/recommendation-recommandation-eng.php>]. The previous recommendation to wait 21 days between shots is no longer in effect. Although this recommendation is being passed on to you, the health unit does not have large supplies of seasonal vaccine and is not actively promoting seasonal flu vaccination at this time. We anticipate doing so following the H1N1 vaccination program, probably in January.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this Pandemic vaccination program. If you have any questions, please contact the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team at 1-877-721-7520, extension 8806.

Sincerely,

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