

# Health **FAX**

## H1N1 Immunization Program Expansion

Attention: **Physicians, Long-Term Care Homes, Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, Correctional Facilities, Rest & Retirement Homes**

Date: November 9, 2009

### A Message from the Medical Officer of Health

After evaluation of our current and future vaccine supply, the following groups are now eligible for H1N1 influenza vaccination:

- **People 65 years of age and greater who have chronic medical conditions**
- **Persons 65 years of age and greater who reside in Long-Term Care Homes**

This is in addition to the following groups already identified in the first sequence as eligible to receive the vaccine based on elevated risk:

- People with chronic medical conditions under the age of 65
- Healthy children from six months to five years old
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines (including those caring for infants 0 to 6 months old)
- Health care workers involved in pandemic response or who deliver essential health care services
- Firefighters who provide, as a regular part of their work, emergency health service functions within their community (communicated from the province to the Health Unit on November 5th)
- People living in remote communities
- Pregnant women

As you know, it is intended that all people six-months of age and older will be able to access the vaccine once we have made the vaccine available in sequence to those who need it most. We have made good progress over the two weeks since the commencement of the program, providing over 70,000 doses of vaccine in total through physicians' practices, hospitals, other health care settings, and public health clinics. Over 15,000 vaccinations have been provided at public health community clinics

(<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Promos/HumanSwineFlu.aspx>), with the majority of the remaining doses being delivered by family doctors. We estimate that the majority of Simcoe - Muskoka residents in sequence one have now been vaccinated, putting us in a good position to accommodate the additional groups designated for vaccination. **We are continuing to evaluate our ability to offer vaccine to other groups of people.**

The contribution made by community physicians to this campaign is significant, and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSC, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health