

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

For Immediate Release

York Region begins H1N1 flu vaccination clinics

The Regional Municipality of York begins 2009-2010 influenza campaign

H1N1 flu vaccine and seasonal flu vaccine available to all residents who need and want it

NEWMARKET – This year it is a different flu season. This fall and winter, there will be two main types of flu viruses circulating in our communities – seasonal flu viruses and the new H1N1 flu virus.

Two flu vaccines are available this year – one to protect against seasonal flu, and the other to protect against the H1N1 flu virus, which is presenting as the predominant virus. Both of these vaccines will be available free of charge to all Ontario residents over the age of six months.

“Vaccine programs are the most successful public health tool in minimizing the impact of infectious diseases in our communities and I encourage individuals who most need it to get them quickly,” said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region’s Medical Officer of Health. “Vaccines will be available to all York Region residents who want protection from this season’s two main circulating flu viruses.”

Following the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s influenza strategy, the H1N1 flu vaccine will be available beginning Wednesday, October 28th at the first York Region H1N1 community immunization clinics. Initial clinics are scheduled at the Vellore Village Community Centre in the City of Vaughan and the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in the Town of Newmarket. The H1N1 vaccine will first be offered in sequence to individuals who most need it and then offered to others that will also benefit from it.

“York Region has been monitoring the local H1N1 situation and working with various levels of government and stakeholders to prepare for this year’s different flu season,” added Dr. Kurji.

For maximum effectiveness, children under the age of 10 will require two half doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine. A minimum 21-day waiting period is required between each immunization. Individuals 10 years of age and older will receive one dose of the vaccine.

Seasonal influenza remains an important component in this year’s flu strategy. Following the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s plan, The Regional Municipality of York continues to offer seasonal flu vaccine to people 65 years of age and older and to residents of long-term care facilities only. Seasonal influenza community clinics will run until October 30th.

Following the completion of the H1N1 community immunization clinics, the universal seasonal influenza immunization program will be offered to all other York Region residents six months of age and older in January. For more information on this year’s provincial vaccine program, please visit www.ontario.ca/flu

Influenza-like illnesses, like seasonal flu viruses and the H1N1 flu virus, are caused by viruses that are easy to catch and easy to spread. Symptoms include a headache, muscle aches, cough, sore throat, fever, fatigue and weakness.

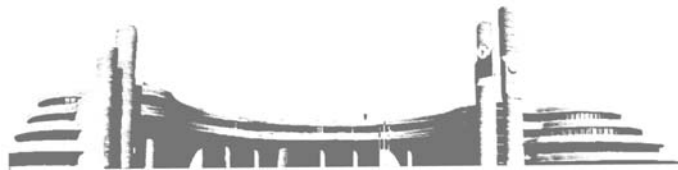
Many York Region residents are affected by influenza each year. Immunizations, coupled with good health protection practices such as proper and frequent hand washing and staying home from work and school when you are sick, can minimize the risk of illness for residents and their families this flu season.

Influenza is not the same as the “stomach flu” and does not usually include vomiting and diarrhea, which are caused by different viruses. The vaccine cannot give you the flu because it does not contain any live virus.

For a complete list of seasonal influenza immunization clinics and updated information on this year’s flu season, please visit www.york.ca/H1N1 or contact **York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653**.

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Tuesday, October 26, 2009

For Immediate Release

York Region begins H1N1 flu vaccination clinics

*The Regional Municipality of York begins 2009 -2010 influenza campaign
H1N1 flu vaccine and seasonal flu vaccine available to all residents who need and want it*

NEWMARKET– It is a different flu season. This year there will be two main types of flu viruses circulating in Ontario – seasonal influenza viruses and the H1N1 flu virus.

Following the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's influenza strategy, the H1N1 flu vaccine will be available beginning Wednesday, October 28th at the first York Region H1N1 community immunization clinics. Initial clinics are scheduled at the Vellore Village Community Centre in the City of Vaughan and the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in the Town of Newmarket. Some groups are at higher risk of contracting H1N1, developing complications from H1N1 or passing the flu to other higher-risk people. For this reason, when the H1N1 vaccine is available it will be offered to these groups first:

- People under age 65 with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, cancer or a condition that affects the heart, liver, lung, or immune system
- Pregnant women
- Healthy children aged six months to less than five years
- People living in remote and isolated settings or communities
- Health care workers
- Household contacts and care providers of infants under six months or persons who may not respond to vaccines

People in these groups are encouraged to attend one of the following priority H1N1 flu virus immunization clinics:

Municipality	Location and Address	Dates and Times
City of Vaughan	Vellore Village Community Centre 1 Villa Royale Avenue	Wednesday, October 28 th - 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, October 29 th – 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, October 30 th – 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 31 st – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, November 1 st – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Town of Newmarket	Ray Twinney Recreation Complex 100 Eagle Street	Wednesday, October 28 th - 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, October 29 th – 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, October 30 th – 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 31 st – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, November 1 st – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

As more vaccine becomes available, the H1N1 vaccine will then be available through the additional York Region community immunization clinics to others who will also benefit from the vaccine. Certain family physician clinics may also provide the H1N1 vaccine. Subsequent clinics include:

Municipality	Location and Address	Dates and Times
City of Vaughan	Vellore Village Community Centre 1 Villa Royale Avenue	November 2 nd to December 18 th Monday – Friday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Town of Newmarket	Ray Twinney Recreation Complex 100 Eagle Street	November 2 nd to December 18 th Monday – Friday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Town of Georgina	Kin Community Hall 3 Fairpark Lane	November 2 nd – December 14 th Monday and Wednesday only 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Details about additional H1N1 immunization clinics are still being finalized. Once clinic dates, locations and times are confirmed they will be posted online at www.york.ca/H1N1

The H1N1 flu virus vaccine is being provided to York Region residents at no cost. For electronic tracking purposes only, residents attending the H1N1 flu virus clinics are encouraged to bring their health card and/or driver's license. Vaccine will be offered to residents who attend a clinic without their health card.

Seasonal influenza vaccinations remain an important component to this year's flu strategy. The Regional Municipality of York continues to offer seasonal flu vaccine to **people 65 years of age and older and to residents of long-term care facilities only**. Seasonal influenza vaccine is available at one of the remaining community clinics or at a local physician's office.

Municipality	Location and Address	Date and Time
Town of Aurora	Aurora Seniors' Centre 5 Municipal Drive	October 30 th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Town of Georgina	Georgina Ice Palace 90 Wexford Drive	October 29 th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Town of Markham	Markham Seniors' Activity Centre 22 Water Street	October 21 st 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Town of Newmarket	Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place 474 Davis Drive	October 28 th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Town of Richmond Hill	McConaghy Seniors' Centre 10100 Yonge Street	October 27 th 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Following the completion of the H1N1 flu vaccination clinics, the universal seasonal influenza immunization program will be offered to all other York Region residents six months of age and older beginning in January. This is the final phase of the 2009/10 provincial vaccine program.

To respond to this current situation, York Region public health has activated its business continuity plans. Many staff have been or will be re-assignment to work in flu immunization clinics and in other support areas they are needed. As a result, some of the health promotion and healthy lifestyle services have been/will be temporarily reduced or postponed. The list of impacted services will be available at www.york.ca/H1N1

For up-to-date information as the flu season evolves, please visit www.york.ca/H1N1 regularly for information about clinics, symptoms, facts sheets and resources.

Clinic dates and locations will be added and may be subject to change. Before going to a clinic, residents are encouraged to confirm clinic locations, dates and times on the website www.york.ca/H1N1 or by calling York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.

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