



Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) Weekly Report: Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Information for Community Partners

Date: 13 Oct 09	Time: 11:00 a.m.	Pandemic Level: 6
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Chief Medical Officer of Health recommends that all those under 65 years of age receive the pandemic H1N1 vaccine first, and then receive a seasonal influenza vaccine.▪ Those over 65 or residing in long-term care homes are recommended to receive their seasonal influenza vaccine now.▪ The NWHU will be structuring this season's immunization program to meet the Ministry recommendations.		
CONFIRMED CASES OF H1N1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ontario: 4144▪ Canada: 12,195 + 389 since September 1, 2009▪ NWHU: 73 + 0 since September 1, 2009		
CONTROL MEASURES		
<p>Use the following routine infection prevention practices to help prevent and control the spread of influenza:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stay home when you are running a fever or feeling very unwell.▪ Use masks with caution, and only for brief periods. They become contaminated inside and outside, and only protect against particles that land directly on nose or mouth.▪ Maintain some distance from those coughing and sneezing.▪ Teach and practice cough and sneeze etiquette, and effective hand hygiene. For more information and tools to help, visit: www.nwhu.on.ca <p>There are no advisories in place to restrict large gatherings. If you are hosting or attending a large gathering, use the routine precautions listed above and remind ill people to stay home. For more information, visit: http://www.fightflu.ca</p>		

SCHOOLS & CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Closures: the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued advice to schools and daycares indicating that they should remain open; and that sick children, teachers and caregivers should stay home.

Guidelines are available for elementary, secondary, post-secondary, and boarding schools for the prevention and management of influenza:

- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/default.html
- <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/h1n1/hp-index-eng.php>

Schools and daycares should report to the NWHU when their illness-related absenteeism exceeds 10%.

TRAVEL

PHAC advises Canadians not to travel while they are ill. Visit the PHAC website for more information: <http://www.fightflu.ca/travel-voyage-eng.html>

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.nwhu.on.ca>

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/default.aspx>

www.fightflu.ca