



Community Partner Update H1N1 FLU VIRUS

Nov. 16/09

Flu Report

For the District of Thunder Bay, last week's flu activity was: Widespread. Cumulative Deaths due to the H1N1 flu virus as of week ending Nov 7/09: Thunder Bay District = 2, Ontario = 61, Canada = 161

More H1N1 Clinics Added to Schedule

Three (3) additional clinics have been added to this week's schedule (a total of 7 H1N1 clinics will be held this week in Thunder Bay). The new clinics are: **Mon. Nov. 16**, 2-7 pm, Lakehead Labour Centre; **Tues. Nov. 17**, 2-7 pm, CLE Heritage Building; and **Thurs. Nov. 19**, 2-7 pm, CLE Heritage Building. The unadjuvanted H1N1 vaccine for pregnant women will be available at all Health Unit clinics (no prescription is needed). For a complete list of flu clinics in the City and District visit thunderbayflu.ca

Despite reports that flu activity is decreasing, the Health Unit is reminding people that it's still important to get the shot. The lineups are shorter, wait times are significantly reduced, and the clinics are now open to the general public.

Reminder: With additional clinics and staff reallocation at the Health Unit, some Health Unit programs and services may be disrupted. We thank you for your understanding.

Sexual Health and Immunization Clinics

The Health Unit's regularly scheduled immunization and sexual health clinics will reopen the week of November 16, 2009. Go to TBDHU.com for clinic hours or call 625-5971 (immunization) or 625-5976 (sexual health).

Revision of Childhood H1N1 Vaccine Dosing

Last week, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) updated its H1N1 vaccination guidelines for children. The Ministry of Health has adopted these guidelines. The following chart outlines the dosing recommendations for the H1N1 flu vaccine:

Age Group	Recommended Dose
0 to 5 months	H1N1 flu vaccine not authorized for use
6 months to 35 months	2 half-doses of adjuvanted vaccine*. The 2 half-doses should be given 21 days or more apart.
3 to 9 years (Healthy children)	1 half-dose of adjuvanted vaccine**
3 to 9 years (Children with chronic medical conditions)	2 half-doses of adjuvanted vaccine. The 2 half-doses should be given 21 days or more apart.
10+ years	1 dose adjuvanted vaccine

*An adjuvant is a substance that is added to a vaccine to boost a person's immune response. It includes naturally occurring oil (called squalene), water and vitamin E. **This recommendation may be updated as more information becomes available.

Flu Clinics and Identification

Flu clinic workers will be swiping driver's licenses or health cards once a new electronic tracking system is implemented at all flu clinics. The system, expected to be in place within the next week, is a provincial requirement for all public health flu clinics.

Questions? Call 625-8318 or 1-888-294-6630, ext 8318. Email marsha.sharpe@tbdhu.com