



Community Partner Update

H1N1 FLU VIRUS

Oct.30/09

More Confirmed Cases

The Health Unit confirms 13 more cases of H1N1 flu since October 23rd. Total case count for 2009 is 31.

More H1N1 Flu Clinics Announced to Meet the Demand

In response to public demand for H1N1 vaccinations, the Health Unit is adding five more clinics to next week's schedule, as follows:

- November 2, 3, 5, and 6, Lakehead Labour Centre, 929 Fort William Road, 2-7 p.m.
- November 7 (Sat.), Thunder Bay District Health Unit, 999 Balmoral Street, 9:30 – 3:30 p.m.

This means that every day next week there will be a clinic at the Lakehead Labour Centre in addition to the other clinics already scheduled.

Only H1N1 vaccine will be available at these additional clinics. However, some previously scheduled clinics next week are offering seasonal flu vaccinations. Please check Thunderbayflu.ca or call the Flu Line at 624-9082 or toll free for the region at 1-866-607-3337 for schedule information on all clinics.

Starting Monday (Nov. 2), all H1N1 clinics will be open to the general public. The Health Unit is also canceling its Wednesday immunization clinic scheduled for November 4th (held at its 999 Balmoral Street location), in order to staff the additional flu clinics.

NOTE: PREGNANT WOMEN are **NOT** being given the H1N1 flu shot at Health Unit clinics unless a doctor's prescription for the vaccine is presented. The Health Unit will be providing the unadjuvanted vaccine to pregnant women when it arrives in November. We are advising pregnant women to speak to their healthcare providers to find out if the vaccination is right for them.

Influenza Self-Assessment Tool

Every fall some kind of flu goes around. But this year it's a different flu season with both seasonal flu and the pandemic H1N1 flu circulating.

Most people who get the flu will be able to manage their symptoms at home, but some people who get the flu may need further assessment by a health care provider.

To help Ontarians decide what to do when they think they may have the flu, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed an on-line self-assessment tool. This tool will help you learn whether you or your child have symptoms of the flu. It will also help you decide what to do next.

This "Self-Assessment Tool" can be found at: www.thunderbayflu.ca or visit health.gov.on.ca and click on the H1N1 flu virus information button to access the tool.

Caution: This self-assessment tool is intended to provide **guidance only** and is not intended to provide medical advice about the treatment of you or your child or about the circumstances of your condition or your child's condition. Consult your physician for any questions that you may have about you or your child's condition.

For flu information or questions:
625-8318 or toll free: 1-888-294-6630, ext 8318
thunderbayflu.ca

Clinics:
Flu Line (clinic schedule):
624-9082 or toll-free 1-866-607-3337

Questions? Need more info? Contact the Infectious Diseases Program 625-8318 or 1-888-294-6630, ext. 8318. You may also email marsha.sharpe@tbdhu.com