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H1N1 vaccine to priority groups first: Health Unit

The first local H1N1 vaccine clinics will be offered next week, with clinics in Pembroke, Petawawa and Eganville. "These clinics are for people in priority groups only," stressed Dr. Michael Corriveau, Medical Officer of Health for Renfrew County and District.

Please be reminded that the Health Unit is not the sole provider of H1N1 vaccine. Other health care providers have access to and may have the vaccine on hand.

"We have a limited supply of the vaccine at this time, so we are concentrating on getting it to people most at risk of serious complications if they get the H1N1 virus. Healthy children over age 5, youth and adults will be turned away unless they are in a priority group," added Dr. Corriveau.

The priority groups are:

- People under age 65 with chronic medical conditions
(Chronic medical conditions include: heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes, asthma and chronic lung disease, liver disease, blood disorders, severe obesity, suppressed immune system caused by cancer drugs or HIV/AIDS, and neurological disorders)
- Pregnant women
- Healthy children from six months to five years of age
- Health care workers involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services
- Household contacts and care providers of people at high risk who cannot be immunized or who may not respond to vaccines

The first vaccination clinics for priority groups are as follows:

Pembroke: Monday November 2 at the Germania Club, 15 Bennett Street, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Petawawa: Tuesday November 3 at the Civic Centre, Civic Centre Drive, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Eganville: Thursday November 5 at Grace Lutheran Church, 14 Bonnechere Street, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Arnprior: Monday November 9, Nick Smith Centre, 77 James Street, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Deep River: Thursday November 12 at Real Hope Christian Assembly, 33019 Hwy 17 from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Further clinic dates will be advertised and are also on the Health Unit web site: www.rcdhu.com. Clinic dates may vary and additional clinics may be scheduled.

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