



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, 2:30 p.m., October 22, 2020)

RCDHU 2020/2021 Flu Campaign Update

Due to COVID-19, there is increased early interest from the public in the flu vaccination this year. While Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) applauds the fact that more residents are recognizing the importance of annual flu shots, please be advised that **community flu clinics will start in early November** pending the announcement of the provincial launch.

The Ministry of Health is releasing flu vaccine in stages across the province to priority populations first; long-term care homes, hospitals and primary care. RCDHU recommends that individuals identified as priority populations such as people who are residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities and individuals who are 65 years of age and over, call ahead to schedule an appointment with their primary care practitioner or local pharmacy to ensure that they have vaccine available.

"Having said that, those who do not meet the criteria for priority populations need to have patience while awaiting the release of vaccine in further stages. In the meantime, we must remind people that the standard COVID-19 precautions go a long way and are the best way to prevent the spread of the flu," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of health, RCDHU.

RCDHU continues to work with primary care and community partners to plan and implement this year's Flu Campaign. "We want to thank all the health care providers, their clinic staff and pharmacists in our region for their added commitment to helping out. This is not easy this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and yet there is more interest than ever. Impressive!", states Dr. Cushman.

Let's all do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the flu; get the flu shot, stay home if sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash our hands, and use the COVID Alert App.

Please watch the RCDHU website and local media for upcoming information on flu clinic dates, locations and other details. For more information visit RCDHU's website at:

<https://www.rcdhu.com/>.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com