



News Release

Daily Pandemic Update
November 17, 2009

Central Health provides pandemic update

Central Health would like to provide the following information as the *Daily Pandemic Update*. Today's update is **accurate as of 8:00 a.m., today, Tuesday, November 17, 2009.**

Number of new admissions with influenza-like-illness (ILI)	4
Total number of admissions with ILI	16
Of number of total admissions with ILI, number of patients in ICU	4
Of the patients in ICU, number of patients on ventilator	3

High risk groups currently eligible for H1N1 vaccine

Central Health would like to reiterate that due to the reduced amount of available vaccine, the H1N1 vaccine is currently limited to the following high-risk groups:

- Children six months of age, up to and including grade nine (**grades seven to nine will be vaccinated in school on Thursday, November 19 and Friday November 20, 2009 as per arrangements to be made by the Nova Central School District**).
- People five years of age up to but not including 65 years of age with chronic medical illness such as: diabetes, cardiac disease, blood disorders, bowel diseases; and, chronic respiratory conditions such as: asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or cystic fibrosis.
- Individuals under 65 years of age with compromised respiratory function due to a physical, neurological or muscular disorder [e.g. ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy, quadriplegia, paraplegia].
- All individuals currently receiving hemodialysis, regardless of age.
- Pregnant women.
- Parents or other primary care providers (up to two per child) of children under the age of six months and of immunocompromised individuals (up to and including 24 years of age) who cannot themselves be vaccinated.
- Individuals undergoing active cancer treatment (chemotherapy or radiation).

- Pre-transplant patients on a wait list.
- Post-transplant patients.
- Hospital in-patients less than 65 years of age with one or more chronic health conditions.

The restricted criteria apply to mass immunization clinics in all regions of the province and will be strictly enforced.

People meeting the above-noted criteria that have not yet been immunized are asked to contact Central Health's Pandemic Information Line and leave their name, number and location. Someone will follow-up with you to arrange for you to receive the vaccine.

Service changes

No service changes to report today.

Visitation restrictions

Central Health would also like to remind the public that Valley Vista Senior Citizen's Home in Springdale is closed to visitors. The visiting ban at Notre Dame Bay Memorial Health Centre in Twillingate, North Haven Manor in Lewisporte and the Connaigre Peninsula Health Centre in Harbour Breton was recently lifted. These, and all other health centres and long term care sites in the central region have limited visitation restrictions in place. **Limited visitation** means that the following regulations will be strictly enforced:

- No children under 14 years of age;
- One visitor per client at a time; and,
- Visitor must be a member of the client's immediate family.

Central Health's Pandemic Information Line is 1-877-311-2613.

Please be advised that Central Health will provide another update on this information again tomorrow.