



News Release

Daily Pandemic Update
November 5, 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, Thursday, November 5, 2009.**

Number of new admissions with influenza-like-illness (ILI)	5
Total number of admissions with ILI	17
Of number of total admissions with ILI, number of patients in ICU	7
Of the patients in ICU, number of patients on ventilator	3

Immunization update

As of the end of the day on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, Central Health has immunized 7,197 members of public who fit the high-risk groups that are currently eligible for the H1N1 vaccine. In addition, 3,366 health care workers have been immunized. This number includes 2,798 (87.8 per cent) Central Health staff members.

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 up to fifty-nine months of age.
- People five years of age up to and including 24 years of age with chronic conditions.
- Pregnant women in the second half of their pregnancy (20 to 40 weeks).
- Parents or other primary care providers (up to two per child) of children under the age of six months.
- Parents or other primary care providers or immunocompromised children and young adults (up to and including 24 years of age) who cannot themselves be vaccinated.
- Pregnant women in the first half of their pregnancy (up to 20 weeks).
- Hospital in-patients less than 65 years of age with one or more chronic health conditions.

- School-aged children from Kindergarten to Grade Three (to be immunized at school as per arrangements made by Nova Central School District).
- Individuals between the ages of 25 and up to the 40th birthday with chronic respiratory disease such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or cystic fibrosis.
 - *People will need to show proof that they are actively being treated for the disease. Examples of proof include prescription, labelled medication, insurance forms, etc.*
- Individuals undergoing active cancer treatment (chemotherapy or radiation).
- Transplant patients, including:
 - Those on a waitlist who have been directed by their physician to receive the vaccine.
 - Those who have had a transplant in the last two years.

All groups added on November 5, 2009 (with the exception of school-aged children) will be immunized in scheduled mass immunization clinics (schedule can be found on Central Health's website at www.centralhealth.nl.ca). School-aged children will be immunized in school as per the arrangements made by the Nova Central School District.

Service changes

Central Health has implemented the following changes to services due to staffing challenges related to H1N1:

- Cancellation of some elective surgeries at James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre (JPMRHC) in Gander. Any patients impacted by this change have already been notified.
- All Echocardiogram services Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor (inpatient and outpatient) have been temporarily suspended until further notice. Any clients affected by this change have been notified and will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date. Any emergent echocardiograms will be referred to another health authority.

Visitation restrictions

Central Health would also like to remind the public that Notre Dame Bay Memorial Health Centre is closed to visitors. In all other health centres and long term care sites, limited visitation restrictions are still in place throughout the region. **Limited visitation** means that the following regulations will be strictly enforced:

- No children under 14 years of age;
- One visitors per resident at a time; and,
- Visitor must be a member of the resident'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.

Media contact: Stephanie Power, (709) 256-5532