



News Release

October 21, 2009

Distribution of H1N1 vaccine in central region

Central Health will begin the distribution of the H1N1 vaccine in the central region on Monday, October 26, 2009. The first group to receive the vaccine will be health and community services workers.

The vaccine will be available to the general public in the central region through mass immunization clinics beginning on **Monday, November 2, 2009**. A schedule outlining the specific dates, times and locations of mass immunization clinics in the following communities will be announced early next week:

- Baie Verte
- Buchans
- Change Islands
- Gander
- Glovertown
- La Scie
- Springdale
- St. Brendan's
- Botwood
- Brookfield
- Fogo
- Grand Falls-Windsor
- Harbour Breton
- Lewisporte
- St. Alban's
- Twillingate

Central Health, along with other Regional Health Authorities, will conduct an advertising campaign to communicate the times, dates and locations of mass immunization clinics throughout the region. It is anticipated that advertising will begin next week.

Discussion is ongoing with respect to the immunization of citizens living in communities that are accessible only by boat AND have no permanent health care services located within the community. Details related to H1N1 immunizations in those communities will also be announced early next week.

Based on recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the vaccine will be offered first to people who will benefit most from it. These groups include:

- Individuals under 65 with chronic health conditions;
- Individuals living in remote and isolated settings or communities;
- Children six months up to five years of age;

- Health care workers involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services;
- Pregnant women; and
- Household contacts and caregivers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines and populations otherwise identified as high risk.

The H1N1 vaccination is not mandatory but is recommended for all residents of the province. The H1N1 vaccine is free to all residents of the central region.

For more information, please see the news release distributed by the Department of Health and Community Services at <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/thisweek>.

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