



MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

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HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

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News Release

To: All Media

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The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced its plans for the upcoming influenza immunization program on September 24, 2009. Chatham-Kent Public Health is implementing a revised plan based on these recommendations with the following approximate timelines:

October: Regular seasonal influenza vaccine for people 65 years of age and older and residents of long-term care facilities

- During this time, in Chatham-Kent, the seasonal influenza vaccine will be available at health care providers offices and at the following community public health clinics:

Date	Time	Location
Monday, October 26	10 am – 4 pm	Chatham, Kinsmen Auditorium
Tuesday, October 27	11 am – 3 pm	Ridgetown, Royal Canadian Legion
Thursday, October 29	11 am – 3 pm	Wallaceburg, First Baptist Church
Monday, November 2	11 am – 3 pm	Tilbury, Arena – Ryder Hall
Tuesday, November 3	11 am – 3 pm	Dresden, Lambton-Kent Memorial Arena
Thursday, November 5	11 am – 3 pm	Blenheim, St. Mary's Hall

- All long term care facilities will receive seasonal influenza vaccine for their residents. Hospitals will receive seasonal influenza vaccine for their patients 65 years of age and older.

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November: Pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine

- During this time in Chatham-Kent, the Pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine will be available only at community public health clinics. This local schedule will be announced once the vaccine is available and will follow the target grouping recommendations as per the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- It is uncertain at this time if one or two doses of the Pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine will be needed.
- If circumstances change, further direction from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will be received and implemented.

December and January: Seasonal influenza vaccine for people 6 months of age and older

- Once the Pandemic (H1N1) immunization program is complete, the universal seasonal influenza immunization program will then be available to everyone who is six months of age and older.
- The local distribution mechanism will be determined at that time.

New this year in Chatham-Kent, is a database and tracking system that will be used at all public health community clinics. **All residents are asked to bring their Ontario Health Card and Driver's Licence to all community clinics.**

All community public health clinic schedules will be posted on the Municipality of Chatham-Kent website at <http://www.chatham-kent.ca>.

This three step approach to flu vaccination is a result of evidence that shows the Pandemic (H1N1) influenza virus will be the main influenza strain in circulation this fall in Ontario. It is important to protect those most at risk for complications from catching the flu this year. Seniors are most at risk for complications from seasonal flu while younger people are more at risk for complications from Pandemic (H1N1) influenza.

This year, it's a different kind of flu season. Protect yourself and your family; get immunized against both types of flu.