



# MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

435 GRAND AVENUE WEST • P.O. BOX 1136 • CHATHAM, ONTARIO • N7M 5L8

## HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

TELEPHONE: 519-352-7270 FAX: 519-352-2166

### News Release

To: All Media

Contact: April Rietdyk and/or Cathy Bennett are available for comment through Heather Bakker at 519-352-7270 Ext 2402.

Print Date: October 26, 2009

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#### **Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit Urges Patience as H1N1 Flu Clinics Begin**

Today's first flu vaccination clinic proved that Chatham-Kent citizens are serious about getting vaccinated for the H1N1 Flu virus and are concerned about staying well during this upcoming flu season. Crowds were much larger than anticipated with waits longer than public health officials had predicted. We did not know what to expect this year and we are hoping for patience and understanding from all Chatham-Kent citizens.

Due to the overwhelming crowds, citizens not meeting the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's priority sequencing guidelines were asked to return to another clinic allowing available vaccine to be given to Chatham-Kent's most vulnerable citizens first. The Ministry has assured all Ontarians that there will be enough vaccine for all citizens. At future clinics, we hope to be in the position where vaccine is available to everyone who wants it however, based on crowds, on-site staff will ensure priority groups are vaccinated first.

Chatham-Kent Public Health is requesting healthy individuals, not in the priority sequencing outlined by the Ministry to allow our most vulnerable citizens to receive the first shipments of vaccine. Priority groups include pregnant women, children from 6 months to 5 years of age, anyone under 65 years of age with a chronic medical condition, health care workers, and individuals living with people who cannot be immunized.

Clinics are scheduled over the next five weeks throughout Chatham-Kent. Please check the Chatham-Kent Health Unit's website [www.chatham-kent.ca](http://www.chatham-kent.ca) for changes and updates before heading out to an H1N1 Flu immunization clinic. Citizens are also encouraged to check the scheduled times for both seasonal and H1N1 Flu as H1N1 vaccine will not be available at the clinics until the time designated on the schedule.

For further information, contact the Flu Hotline at 519-352-7270 Ext. 2800.

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*Working together to build a healthy community.*