



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

For Immediate Release

To: All Media

Contact: April Rietdyk, Director, Public Health
Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit, 519-352-7270, Ext. 2400

Print Date: December 1, 2009

Seasonal Flu Vaccine Added to H1N1 Flu Clinics

H1N1 influenza activity appears to be stabilizing across the province. However, it will be in circulation throughout the winter and pockets of the population will continue to be susceptible. H1N1 flu activity is higher than expected for this time of year or at the peak of a typical flu season. It is important to note that reduced activity does not mean that the severity of illness has diminished. The flu can cause severe illness in some, especially those at high risk of developing complications from contracting the virus. Although we cannot predict if we will see a resurgence of the H1N1 flu virus in the new year, we certainly expect that people will continue to become ill with the virus over the winter.

While the H1N1 flu virus will be the predominant strain of flu circulating at this time, seasonal influenza activity could emerge and individuals will be vulnerable to seasonal strains. The timing and extent of seasonal flu emergence is unknown; it may arrive during normal flu season (December – March), it may be localized, widespread, or not emerge at all. Despite this uncertainty, Dr. Arlene King, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. David Colby, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Chatham-Kent have decided to proceed with the third phase of this year's flu immunization program at this time.

Seasonal flu vaccine will be available at all community clinics beginning with the December 5 clinic in Chatham. There is no minimum interval required between administration of seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 flu vaccine; if individuals desire, they can have both vaccines on the same day. Chatham-Kent residents, who are not yet immunized for H1N1 and/or seasonal flu, are encouraged to attend a clinic in their community to be immunized as soon as possible. Wait-times at Chatham clinics have been under 45 minutes with many of the smaller community clinics having no wait time at all.

The following is the **final** list of upcoming community clinics. Mass community clinics will not be offered in January.

Date	Location	Time
Saturday December 5	St. Paul's Congregational Church, Chatham	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday December 8	First Baptist Church, Wallaceburg	1:00 - 7:00 pm*
Wednesday December 9 ** NEW CLINIC**	Kinsmen Auditorium, Chatham	1:00 – 7:00 pm
Thursday December 10	St. Mary's Hall, Blenheim	1:00 - 7:00 pm*
Friday December 11	Lambton Kent Memorial Arena, Dresden	1:00 - 7:00 pm*
Tuesday December 15	WISH Centre, Chatham	1:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursday December 17	Tilbury Arena, Ryder Hall, Tilbury	1:00 - 7:00 pm*
Thursday December 17 ** NEW LOCATON**	Rudy Brown Building Ridgetown College Ridgetown	1:00 - 7:00 pm*
		* new hours

Seasonal flu vaccine will also be available at many area physicians' offices. Later this month, some area physicians may begin offering H1N1 vaccine to their patients.

For further Flu and Immunization information, contact the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit Flu Hotline at 519-352-7270 ext 2800 or visit <http://www.chatham-kent.ca>.

Protect yourself and your family this flu season; attend a community clinic and be immunized.