

## Notes: H1N1 Teleconference with Interior Health, November 16, 2009

Dr. Andrew Larder:

- Data would say that we may be at the peak of influenza activity and don't seem to be continuing the rise in activity:
  - H1N1 types of doctor visits are at 9%, the highest to this point.
  - Since October 30, 231 schools have reported more than 10% absence, dramatic decline in reports last week.
  - 5 deaths, hospital admission has declined in the last week.
  - Optimistic that as we move toward Christmas activity levels will drop down from the peak levels.
- 4th week of immunization campaign, characterized by an unpredictable supply of vaccine and changing messages about who should get the vaccination and how many vaccinations they need.
- 65% of people eligible have been vaccinated in the past 3 weeks (children under 6 mo., people with underlying health issues under the age of 65, certain health professionals/caregivers)
- Eligibility has now been expanded to children under 18 years, people over 65 with chronic health conditions, first responders
- Sufficient vaccination is available, concern is that the clinics this week aren't busy, concern is that perhaps people may be thinking it's too late to get the vaccination because they will have been in contact with H1N1. We still have at least 4 months of flu season ahead, lots of time to see another wave of H1N1. The only way to adequately deal with the 3rd wave of influenza is for people to get the vaccination. If the third wave does happen we could see as many new deaths as we have already had. Not too late to prevent the impact of wave 3 by getting the vaccination.
- Reminder to check on Interior Health website for clinic details. Since the clinics are now open to school-aged children they are being scheduled to run later in the day.

### Q&A:

*1. If someone has had H1N1 in the past 3 weeks would they be immune?*

Response: If the person has had a lab confirmed case of H1N1 they would be immune. If they haven't had a lab confirmation then they should receive the flu shot. There is no harm in receiving the vaccination, even if they have had the flu.

*2. When will eligibility be opened up to everyone?*

Response: Interior Health is meeting again later this week and it looks like there will be enough vaccine to open up to everyone. Stay tuned for further announcements.

**The next H1N1 Teleconference is scheduled for December 14.**