H1N1 IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN:

Our Plan for Canadians

Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada | Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

November 2009

Office of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
1 800 O-Canada
www.fightflu.ca

Fellow Canadians:

Sometimes, finding the facts you need to protect yourself and your family from the H1N1 flu virus isn't easy. There are a lot of people giving advice right now.

As the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and a doctor, I am writing to provide you with the facts about the H1N1 immunization campaign underway across the country.

Our plan for Canadians

We're in the midst of the largest and quickest mass immunization campaign in Canadian history. In fact, next week more than 8,500,000 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine will have been delivered to provinces and territories.

Immunizing millions of people must be done in phases. As much as I wish we could vaccinate everybody all at once, that's just not realistic. This is why public health officials have identified priority groups who need to be vaccinated first. Among them are:

- People under 65 years of age with chronic health conditions
- Pregnant women
- Children 6 months to under 5 years of age
- People living in remote and isolated settings or communities
- Health care workers responding to the H1N1 pandemic or delivering essential health care services
- Caregivers or close household contacts of persons who cannot be vaccinated or who may not respond to the vaccine

Once the priority groups are vaccinated, immunization will begin for the rest of the population with a goal of vaccinating every Canadian who wishes to be vaccinated in the weeks to come.

A phased rollout of the vaccine helps protect everyone — the more Canadians who get vaccinated, the better we are all protected against the H1N1 flu virus.

You can be confident that there will be vaccine available when your turn comes. In fact, Canada is one of the few countries in the world to make enough vaccine available for all its citizens.

I can't emphasize enough that getting vaccinated is a safe and effective way to protect yourself and others against the H1N1 flu virus. Consult your local health authorities or the contact information below to learn more.

Yours sincerely,

David Butler-Jones

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

For more information about the H1N1 flu vaccine

visit **www.fightflu.ca**

or call **1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY 1-800-926-9105**

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