MEMO/NOTE

To/Destinare: All SWCCAC Providers and All SWCCAC Staff

From/De: Gwen Vanderheyden, Regional Manager Quality

Date: October 27, 2009

Subject/Sujet: SWCCAC H1N1 (Swine Flu)

What is this update about?
This update will cover three key areas: Current information about H1N1 flu incidence in our region, H1N1 Vaccine information and SWCCAC pandemic planning.

RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

Map of overall Influenza activity level by provinces and territories, Week 41, Canada

Note: Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned and reported by Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health, based on laboratory confirmations, sentinel ILI rates (see graphs and tables) and reported outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions on the last page. For areas where no data is reported, late reports from these provinces and territories will appear on the FluWatch website.
Provincial Surveillance:

OAHPP – Laboratory Pandemic H1N1 Surveillance Report – October 19, 2009

**Figure 6.** Map of the laboratory confirmed pH1N1 cases by PHU. Weekly cases are represented in the ring map, and the total number of positive pH1N1 cases is represented in brackets in the map of Ontario.

**South West Update:**
- During the last two weeks, levels of illness have been increasing with the most significant increase in the London and Middlesex area. Links to the local health unit surveillance reports will be posted as they are received. Due to the heightened activity in the LM area here is an excerpt from the London Middlesex health Unit weekly update.

**Pandemic (H1N1) influenza activity in Middlesex-London:**

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London continues to increase and is now high and widespread. Between October 19 and 23, the Health Unit received reports of 9 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) influenza and 33 cases of influenza A, which are quite likely to be the Pandemic (H1N1) strain. In total, 78 laboratory-confirmed cases of Influenza A or Pandemic (H1N1) have been reported to the Health Unit this fall. The number of people in the community who have influenza is likely considerably higher than indicated by laboratory-confirmed cases because most people with influenza do not need to see their health care provider, and for most people testing is not recommended. (from Weekly Surveillance Report LMHU-click here for full report)  
http://www.healthunit.com/articlesPDF/15288.pdf
Flu Clinics

Many employers are being asked by their staff if H1N1 clinics will be offered at work. Unfortunately the answer must be NO because the vaccine requires very strict COLD CHAIN requirements. Public Health has already determined the locations for its public clinics; staff will need to access those clinics if they wish to get the H1N1 vaccine. We have pulled together a list of the clinics for staff to view. Please note that new vaccination clinics are being added frequently so please follow the links to your local health unit for the most current information.

http://www.thehealthline.ca/libraryContent.aspx?id=161

VACCINES

- The vaccine has been prepared to address the novel H1N1 strain. It is an egg-based vaccine so usual allergy precautions are in effect.
- The vaccine will only be available to Public Health Units, Physician Offices and Hospitals and all public clinics will be under the direction and supervision of local Public Health Units.
- The MOHLTC have defined the sequencing of H1N1 vaccinations and the pandemic planning group of the OACCAC have confirmed that “all home care providers were included in the priority of front-line community health care providers.”
- In Ontario, it has been decided to first, provide all high risk clients (65+, LTC clients, etc) with the usual seasonal flu vaccination. H1N1 vaccination will begin around mid November 2009 and will be administered by priority according to MOHLTC defined sequencing.
- The vaccine has been approved for use by Health Canada
- Click on this link for useful information about the vaccine:
  
  091023 Influenza fact sheet15270.pdf
- For more information go to www.thehealthline.ca and click on the H1N1 Flu Virus Resources in the top right hand corner

Key Messages for All SWCCAC Staff

On-Site Flu Clinics

1. Owing to the late start for seasonal influenza and internal operational challenges, The SWCCAC will not be offering on-site flu clinics this season. Staff wanting to access the seasonal influenza vaccine will need to obtain it from the usual venues (e.g. Physician’s office, Public Clinics, Private Pharmacy Clinics, etc)
2. H1N1 Flu vaccine clinics started this week. CCAC employees, as health care workers, are eligible to receive this vaccine. Please follow this link to local immunization clinic information
3. The SW CCAC is expanding the membership of the Pandemic planning core team to include Union and JOHSC representation to ensure we are able to respond effectively.

4. Staff information sessions are being held to provide further information about H1N1. All staff are encouraged to attend one of these drop in sessions.

5. The Human Resources Department has compiled a list of frequently asked Questions and answers for CCAC staff information which will be posted on the SW intranet.

For More information on H1N1 Flu please click on the following web sites

http://www.thehealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=1104

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/

Canadian Public Health Agency

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