

Important Notice For Parents and Guardians

October 30, 2009

As a parent or guardian you may have received a letter dated October 29, 2009 from Niagara Region Public Health regarding an expansion H1N1 priority groups. **Please disregard that portion of the letter and note the priority group remains infants and children from 6 months to 5 years of age.**

We apologize for this confusion and ask for your understanding. Today, we were informed that nationally, due to production issues at the vaccine producer, there will be a national shortage of vaccine over the next one to two weeks. Therefore, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has directed local health units to continue to provide the vaccine **to the original priority groups only which included 6 months to 5 years of age.**

Therefore, to clarify, **priority groups** are:

- People under 65 with chronic medical conditions
- Pregnant women (more than 20 weeks or at any stage with other medical conditions)
- Children 6 months to 5 years of age.
- Health care workers involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services
- Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines such as infants less than six months of age and persons who are immunocompromised

Clinics offered by Niagara Region Public Health tomorrow and over the next week will be for priority groups only, not the general public. The most current clinic schedule can be found at www.niagararegion.ca.



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