

# HEALTH UNIT TO BEGIN DISTRIBUTION OF PANDEMIC (H1N1) VACCINE NEXT WEEK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2009

London, ON – The Middlesex-London Health Unit announced this afternoon that it will begin holding H1N1 vaccination clinics early next week. The move comes after the Public Health Agency of Canada announced today that regulators had approved the vaccine for distribution to Canadians and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care outlined plans for shipping the vaccine to local health authorities across the province.

“This is the beginning of what will be a tremendous local undertaking: starting with those at an increased risk of H1N1 infection, we will deliver the vaccine to anyone who wants it,” says Dr. Graham Pollett, Medical Officer of Health at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. “We encourage everyone who is eligible to get the H1N1 vaccine. We know the virus is already circulating widely in our community, so getting the shot is the best way to protect yourself, your family and your neighbours from becoming ill.”

**Due to the amount of vaccine that will initially be available, the first of the Health Unit’s H1N1 vaccination clinics will only be open to specific “high-risk” groups. These groups are: health care workers, children between the ages of six months and less than five years, household members of children younger than six months and pregnant women.** The Health Unit also stated that vaccine will be available to anyone in the community who wants it at further clinics, which will be held in the coming weeks.

The Health Unit expects to receive 19,500 doses of the Pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine soon; further shipments are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. The Health Unit will announce dates, times and locations of the vaccination clinics as they become available.

The Pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine is produced in Canada by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and is being delivered to health authorities across Canada. The government of Canada has ordered more than 50 million doses of the vaccine with the aim of providing it to anyone who wants it before the end of the year. The vaccine that will initially be available contains an adjuvant. Adjuvants are products that are added to vaccines to boost an individual’s immune response and to increase the amount of vaccine available for distribution. The adjuvant contained in the vaccine is made up of water and a natural oil, and has been tested in more than 40,000 people.

For more information about the H1N1 vaccine, clinic times and locations and other information about Pandemic (H1N1) influenza, please visit the Middlesex-London Health Unit’s website at [www.healthunit.com/h1n1info](http://www.healthunit.com/h1n1info).

**Media Contact:**

Dan Flaherty, Communications Manager, Middlesex-London Health Unit  
519-663-5317 ext. 2469 or 519-617-0570 (cell)

**Spokespersons:**

Dr. Graham Pollett, Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit  
Dr. Bryna Warshawsky, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit

[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)