

# Special Advisory

## from the Chief Public Health Officer

November 10, 2009

### Update on Vaccine Sequencing

*Please note: This advisory replaces all previous advisories on vaccine sequencing.*

Our current vaccine supply and the level of uptake at the community clinics now allows us to expand our immunization program to additional high risk groups.

Our goal continues to be to protect those most vulnerable and the decisions we are making are sequenced based on nationally agreed upon target groups, epidemiology, quantity of vaccine available and the logistics of delivering the program. Vaccine will continue to be offered at the community clinics to the risk groups below. In addition Public Health Services in the District Health Authorities are working with physicians over the next few days to find ways to involve them in vaccination of these groups.

***In addition to children under 19 years of age, we can now offer immunization to adults 20-64 years of age with the following chronic conditions requiring regular medical follow up, including:***

- Heart disease
- Asthma and chronic lung disease
- Hepatic disease
- Renal disease
- Diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases
- Neurological and neuro-developmental disorders causing problems with swallowing and breathing
- Currently receiving cancer treatment
- Morbid obesity (BMI > 35)

***People living with or providing care in the home for:***

- Infants < 6 months of age
- Persons at high-risk who can not be immunized
- Persons who are immunocompromised and may not respond to vaccine

***Front line workers at residential care facilities, community based option and small option homes, group homes and developmental residences.***

***Please note: We are continuing to provide vaccine to the following high risk groups:***

- Pregnant women (including four weeks post partum) and their partners
- Children aged 6-59 months
- Front line health care workers
- People living in first nation communities

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At this time we still do not have sufficient vaccine supply to immunize the following community based health care providers:

- Dentists, Dental Hygienists
- Chiropractors
- Physiotherapists, etc.

These providers will be included as soon as adequate supply of vaccine exists.

Our goal remains to protect those most vulnerable and we will continue to work to do so as our vaccine supply increases.

Please visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/h1n1> frequently to ensure you are up to date with all aspects of the H1N1 situation. I appreciate your continued support and commitment throughout this evolving situation.

Regards,



Robert Strang MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Chief Public Health Officer  
Department of Health Promotion and Protection

