

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Please distribute to all physicians at this fax.

Date:	October 31, 2009
To:	All Alberta Physicians
From:	Dr. David Megran, Senior Physician Executive Dr. Gerry Predy, Senior Medical Officer of Health
Re:	<u>Mass H1N1 vaccination clinics suspended; emphasis shifts to high-risk</u>

Late today Alberta Health and Wellness ordered the suspension of all immunization clinics in the province effective immediately due to the national reduction in the supply of H1N1 vaccine. **The suspension will remain in effect until further notice.**

In its release the province said: "Targeted H1N1 vaccination efforts will resume early next week with the focus to be only on those at greatest risk. This includes pregnant women; children six months to less than five years of age; people under 65 with chronic health conditions; people living in remote and isolated communities; and health care workers." **Alberta Health Services is developing a delivery plan and we expect that more information will be available Monday.**

While we await further details on the availability of the vaccine, we would like to take this opportunity to first thank all staff and physicians – both those directly involved in the H1N1 vaccination effort and everyone across the health system, for responding so quickly. Efforts of this magnitude inevitably have an impact across the system.

There will be considerable public uncertainty and anxiety while decisions are made with respect to availability and resumption of vaccination for the general population. We have made the safety of our staff a priority and we will provide more information as soon as it becomes available.

We are urging the public to be patient and to understand that we are working as quickly as possible with the resources we have available. You have every reason to be proud of what has already been accomplished.

**Dr. David Megran
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**Dr. Gerry Predy
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For more information visit the website: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/660.asp Or contact: AHS.ECC@albertahealthservices.ca

Physician Urgent: Mass H1N1 vaccination clinics suspended; emphasis shifts to high-risk Issued by: Senior Physician Executive Approved by: Senior Physician Executive and ECC

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