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Munarhiliqiyikkut Inuuhiriknirmullu
Department of Health and Social Services
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

News Release

HSS Launches H1N1 website and announces vaccine plans

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 30, 2009) – A new website goes live today which will give Nunavummiut access to the most up-to-date information about the H1N1 flu virus.

"I am pleased to launch the Department of Health and Social Services' new website - www.fluNU.ca . This new website, available in all official languages, ensures that important, up-to-date flu information is at your fingertips 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Tagak Curley. "We are working hard to keep Nunavummiut well-informed about the H1N1 flu virus and how to protect themselves and their families."

The website includes material such as hand washing posters, information sheets for how to care for the sick at home, and posters for home and work, all available for printing. It also provides clear guidance as to when to call the health centre and the necessary contact information.

"The H1N1 flu virus is serious, it's in Nunavut and we all need take precautions to slow its spread. The best way to stop the spread of this flu is to get the H1N1 flu shot," explained Minister Curley. "I urge all Nunavummiut to be responsible and get yourselves and your family vaccinated."

"We have ordered enough of the H1N1 flu vaccine for every Nunavummiut who wants to receive it," said Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Isaac Sobol. "The H1N1 flu shot is free for all Nunavummiut."

The H1N1 flu vaccine is expected in the territory no later than mid November and mass immunization clinics will begin in every community once it arrives, Dr. Sobol explained. Reports from around the world indicate that H1N1 is this year's seasonal flu. The department's focus is to protect Nunavummiut from the H1N1 Pandemic Influenza virus.

As a reminder to all Nunavummiut:

- Get your flu shot to stay healthy this flu season.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or a tissue – and throw the tissue away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also effective.
- Stay home if you are sick for seven days after you start getting sick or at least 24 hours after you are not feeling sick anymore.

"We know we can lessen the impact the H1N1 flu if Nunavummiut take these precautions, said Dr. Sobol.

-- 30 --

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