



April 30, 2009

Your file Votre référence

Please note that Swine Flu is now officially called H1N1 Influenza A.

Our file Notre référence

On April 29, 2009 the World Health Organization raised the global pandemic alert level to 5. No emergency declaration has been made in Canada.

There are 7 confirmed H1N1 Influenza A cases in Ontario. All of the cases have mild illness and are recovering at home. Six of the 7 cases travelled to Mexico and we are waiting to find out about travel for the seventh case.

There have been no cases fitting the H1N1 Influenza A case definition reported on reserve.

What does Pandemic Level 5 mean ?

It means that there are swine flu outbreaks in more than two countries in the world. It also means that a pandemic is likely to happen. There is no need to panic but it is important for communities to be prepared.

What preparations have been made ?

For the past 5 years, First Nations and Inuit Health has been working with provincial partners, Chiefs of Ontario (COO), PTOs and Independent First Nations to make preparations. Arrangements have been made to ensure that First Nations have the same access to antivirals and vaccines as other Canadians.

Further information can be found in Chapter 20 of the Ontario Pandemic Plan. It is posted on the First Nations Pandemic website: www.pandemic.knet.ca

What can communities do ?

Communities should maintain standard infection control practices. Information can be found on the First Nations Pandemic Website: www.pandemic.knet.ca
Many communities have developed pandemic plans and they have been participating in table top exercises. It is now time to review these pandemic plans and make sure they are up to date and everyone knows what to do.

If your community does not have a plan, there is still time to put a plan together. If you require assistance in this, or if you have questions or concerns about your existing plan, please contact Dr. Geoff Dunkley, Community Medicine Specialist who will make arrangements to help you. He can be reached at: 613-954-2408.

Further Information

Public Enquiries Line: 1-800-459-8302 (8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday)

First Nations Pandemic Website: www.pandemic.knet.ca