

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

### **H1N1 VACCINE CLINICS AND INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT CENTRES**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Manager, the Senior Management Team and Manager of Emergency Planning recommends:

1. That the Region of York be advised that the Vellore Village Community Centre will be available for their use as a Vaccination Clinic for approximately 8 weeks;
2. That the Region of York be advised that the City of Vaughan is available to provide assistance with respect to indentifying privately owned commercial/industrial space for use as an Assessment Centre; and
3. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary agreement.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

Not applicable.

#### **Economic Impact**

The economic impact is that the Community Centres could experience a decrease or loss of revenue for the duration of use as a H1N1 Vaccine Clinic. The facility could potentially be used for 8 weeks or longer. Staff will try to mitigate lost revenue by rescheduling events in other facilities where possible.

Potential revenue loss Vellore Village Community Centre           \$171,000

The Region has not taken a position as yet with respect to reimbursing municipalities.

#### **Communications Plan**

The decision and direction from Council will be communicated to York Region Community and Health Services and York Region Emergency Management.

York Region has primary responsibility for communicating with residents with regard to vaccination clinics and assessment centres; however the City will make Regional material available and will respond to general inquiries.

The City will arrange with York Region for staff in designated facilities to be advised that the facility is being used as a Vaccine Clinic and respond to questions.

#### **Purpose**

To advise Council of the request from York Region Community and Health Services to use a City of Vaughan Community Centre to house a H1N1 Vaccine Clinic and to advise of the need for an Influenza Assessment Centre to provide surge capacity for hospitals.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The World Health Organization (WHO) raised the Influenza Pandemic threat Level to 6 on June 11, 2009. Globally the threat level remains unchanged. The outbreak of H1N1 influenza cases

that were first identified in Mexico and rapidly spread throughout the northern hemisphere from late March through to August. Currently the H1N1 influenza virus is the prevalent strain circulating throughout the southern hemisphere. The WHO has identified 3 other influenza strains currently circulating; Seasonal A (H1), A (not sub-typed) and Seasonal A (H3) in both hemispheres. Medical experts anticipate that further influenza cases could occur in the northern hemisphere as early as October or November 2009.

York Region has legislative duties and responsibilities that it must carry out. As part of fulfilling their mandate, they are asking for assistance from local municipalities.

York Region has identified the need for two (2) facilities to be used for the following uses on a temporary basis.

1. H1N1 Vaccine Clinics; and
2. Influenza Assessment Centres.

The specifications and requirements are different for each of the above uses; therefore any facilities identified would only be used as a Vaccine Clinic or an Assessment Centre, not for both uses.

York Region Community and Health Services requested that Emergency Management personnel from each municipality identify facilities that would be appropriate for use as a vaccine clinic. Vaughan, Markham and Newmarket were also asked to identify a facility that would be suitable for use as an Influenza Assessment Centre. On August 6, 2009, Bruce Macgregor, CAO for York Region sent a letter to all municipal Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers requesting assistance from the municipalities in supporting the selection of the facilities, identifying any possible issues that may arise from their use and through the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) network provide input into the planning process. On September 16, 2009 a report on Public Health Measures for Pandemic Influenza was presented to the York Region Community and Health Services Committee to request funds to support the response and to authorize staff to execute agreements with government and community partners for public health response measures for pandemic influenza activities.

### **H1N1 Vaccine Clinics**

Vaccination is the best defence against influenza. Production of a vaccine against the pandemic H1N1 strain is underway and the first dose is expected to be ready for distribution by mid-November. The use of the facilities as vaccinations centres will occur.

The Federal Government has ordered 50.4 million doses of vaccine which is adequate to immunize those Canadians who want it. York Region Community and Health Services have identified that the recent direction for H1N1 vaccine clinics are that 5 permanent sites be open from noon to 8 pm daily for 5 to 7 days/week in locations that meet the criteria for population and most vulnerable. The Region will attempt to immunize 50% of York Region residents within a one month period. They project that 2,300 people will be immunized daily. The preferred sites are Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and a municipality to be determined. (See attachment 3). All offered sites in Georgina, Whitchurch-Stouffville, King and East Gwillimbury will be considered as options. Aurora has been included in with the Newmarket Site.

### H1N1 Vaccine Clinic Site Criteria

Vaccine Clinics are targeted to those areas with large populations. We are advised that the criteria for housing a H1N1 Vaccine Clinic:

1. Large open space on ground level,
2. 22 long tables and 95 chairs,

3. Lots of parking,
4. Easy road access in an area of the municipality with the least amount of local disruption,
5. Small locked area for storage of supplies (will not include vaccine),
6. Separate entrance and exit,
7. IT capability if possible, and
8. Maintenance and cleaning staff.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has suggested schools as possible clinics, but this is not a viable option in York Region. There are over 350 schools that would need to be assessed before they could be considered to be used as a vaccine clinic. The Provincial Government has indicated that they do not plan to close schools in the event of an increase in cases of influenza. School Boards may opt to voluntarily close schools in the event of an outbreak.

#### Issues

1. The Provincial Government will not fully cover the cost of the vaccine clinics including lost revenue.
2. There will be no specific vaccination clinics for municipal employees; they will need to attend the public clinics.
3. The duration of use of the facility and amount of space needed is unknown. This will result in cancellation of some or all recreation programs and revenue loss potentially for 8 weeks or longer.
4. Residents of smaller municipalities may need to travel to the larger centres to access the vaccine.
5. The Region may need to run additional telecommunications lines for their use.
6. The City will need to provide maintenance and cleaning staff. Training and personal protective equipment has not yet been determined.

Emergency Management personnel have worked with York Region Community and Health Services to identify suitable vaccination centres. Vellore Village Community Centre was identified as an appropriate location in Vaughan based on the Region's selection criteria.

#### **Influenza Assessment Centres**

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has instructed public health units throughout Ontario to prepare to operate Influenza Assessment Centres. The purpose of the centres is to provide surge capacity when hospital emergency rooms, walk-in clinics and Doctors' offices are overwhelmed to ensure that residents have rapid access to antiviral medication. These centres will only be activated if required. The Province has indicated that it will reimburse health units for the operation of these centres, but the details of this reimbursement have not yet been finalized.

An Influenza Assessment Centre operates as a large walk-in clinic. Residents with serious illness will be sent to hospitals. Residents attending the Influenza Assessment Centre will undergo triage of symptoms, health teaching, obtain prescriptions for antiviral medication if indicated and sent home to recover. York Region Community and Health Services has identified that the Influenza Assessment Centre can serve 150 people per day. York Region has selected Vaughan, Markham and Newmarket as the sites for the Influenza Assessment Centres. The centres would be open 7 days/week from 1-9 pm. It is difficult to determine if all 3 centres will open simultaneously or one at a time. If only one community in York Region has its medical facilities overwhelmed than only one centre will be opened. If all medical facilities in York Region are overwhelmed simultaneously than all 3 facilities will be opened. It is anticipated that the Influenza Assessment Centres could be operating for the duration of the peak of the wave that is estimated to be 6-8 weeks.

#### Selection Criteria for Influenza Assessment Centres

We are advised that the Criteria for a facility housing an Influenza Assessment Centre,

1. Close proximity to a hospital,
2. Clinical setting, separate rooms for patient assessment,
3. Lots of parking,
4. Easy road access in an area of the municipality with the least amount of disruption to the community,
5. Small locked area for storage of supplies,
6. Separate entrance and exit for patients and EMS,
7. IT capability if possible,
8. Infection control capability,
9. Maintenance and cleaning staff,
10. The vaccine clinic and Influenza Assessment Centre must be in separate locations.

As the Provincial Government may not order mass gathering places to close and well residents may wish to continue with their daily activities, the municipalities requested that York Region investigate using vacant privately owned commercial space that may be suitable for the centres. Vaughan's community centres also are located in populated areas and often connected with libraries and schools. We understand that York Region Property Services has been directed to investigate using private facilities. York Region has set the end of September as the target date for site selection with the potential for occupancy in November.

#### Issues

1. All programming scheduled for the facility would be cancelled either as a result of a Provincial Emergency order or use as an Influenza Assessment Centre or both.
2. Not all residents will be sick simultaneously and only 25-30% of the population may be affected over the duration of the pandemic. Residents who are well may wish to continue to use recreation facilities.
3. There is no commitment from the Province related to reimbursing lost revenue.
4. The health risk to City Staff who will be required to be present such as Buildings and Facilities staff. Training and personal protective equipment requirements.
5. There is no plan if the Influenza Assessment Centres become overwhelmed.
6. The Region may need to run additional telecommunications lines to the facilities.
7. Residents of small municipalities will need to travel to larger centres for services.

#### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision specifically

Strategic Goal: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

#### Regional Implications

York Region Community and Health Services are responsible for coordinating the response to an influenza pandemic; including provision of mass vaccination and Influenza Assessment Centres. City of Vaughan support of the influenza pandemic planning process will provide the necessary facilities for vaccine clinics and assist with the identification of privately owned facilities for use as assessment centres.

#### Conclusion

The H1N1 influenza virus will impact on citizens to varying degrees. Medical experts are unable to predict specifically when the virus will arrive, how severe it will be and how many people will be

affected. Proactive planning can mitigate the impact. Mitigation measures include mass vaccination that aids in building antibodies to fight off the infection and rapid access to medical care through Influenza Assessment Centres to reduce the severity of symptoms. The City can aid in protecting the health and wellness of our citizens through supporting the Regions request for a H1N1 Vaccine Clinic and assistance in identifying an Influenza Assessment Centre location.

**Attachments**

1. August 6, 2009 letter from Bruce Macgregor, CAO for York Region
2. Public Health Measures for Pandemic Influenza Report, York Region Community and Health Services Committee September 16, 2009.
3. September 23, 2009 letter from Dr. Erica Weir, York Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health

**Report prepared by:**

Sharon Walker  
Manager, Emergency Planning  
Extension 6322

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton Harris  
City Manager

Sharon Walker  
Manager, Emergency Planning

Janice Atwood-Petkovski  
Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services

Marlon Kallideen  
Commissioner of Community Services

Bill Robinson  
Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works

John Zipay  
Commissioner of Planning



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

August 6, 2009

To All York Region Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers

**Re: Influenza Assessment Centers and Mass Immunization Clinics**

We are writing to make you aware of the work our MOH is undertaking in preparation for a potential influenza outbreak and to ask for your assistance.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has asked that Public Health Units prepare for the potential activation of influenza assessment centres and mass immunization clinics. The purpose of the influenza assessment centres is to provide surge capacity to triage influenza patients and possibly administer antiviral medication if and when the primary care clinics and hospitals are overwhelmed.

As some of the facilities hosting the influenza assessment centres and mass immunization clinics would be municipally-owned, we are seeking your support in their selection and what possible issues might arise from their use. York Region Public Health has determined the need to plan for the possible opening of three influenza assessment centres and nine mass immunization clinics sites in addition to the seasonal flu clinics in York Region (one in each municipality).

In an effort to make this process transparent for all involved, York Region Emergency Management would like to call a meeting in late August with your local Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), and anyone else you feel should attend (e.g., logistical staff), and representatives from York Region Community and Health Services.

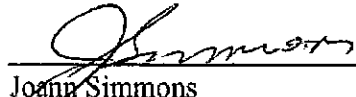
Loretta Chandler, Manager, Emergency Manager, will correspond through the CEMC channel to

establish the details of the meeting and provide clarification should you need it. Please don't hesitate to contact either of us if you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,



Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer



Joann Simmons  
Commissioner, Community & Health Services

BM/pf

Copy to: Bill Fisch, Chairman & CEO, York Region  
Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health  
Community Emergency Management Coordinators

## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

Community and Health Services Committee  
September 16, 2009  
Report of the  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

### PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council authorize the expenditures required to initiate priority public health response measures to anticipated pandemic H1N1 influenza activity in York Region in the autumn, including five immunization clinics and three influenza assessment centres.
2. Should funding not be received by the Region to reimburse costs associated with implementing public health response measures for pandemic H1N1 influenza activity, the costs be funded from any overall surplus in all Regional programs and, if sufficient funds are not available, the balance of funding be contributed from the tax stabilization reserve.
3. Staff be authorized to execute agreements with government and community partners, subject to review by Legal Services, for public health response measures for pandemic H1N1 influenza activity.
4. Staff be authorized to recruit, into an existing vacancy, a full-time Associate Medical Officer of Health.
5. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to local municipalities for information.

#### 2. PURPOSE

This report is prepared for Regional Council in order for it to carry out its legislative duties and responsibilities as the Board of Health under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The purpose of this report is to outline the key public health measures that have and may be enacted in response to the pandemic influenza virus H1N1 and their estimated costs.



### **3. BACKGROUND**

#### **The Public Health Branch has been working with community partners to plan a coordinated response to an influenza pandemic**

For the past several years, following provincial direction, the Public Health Branch has been liaising with local partners, such as emergency responders, the health-care sector and school boards, to help them prepare to respond to an influenza pandemic. One product of this undertaking was the development of a Co-ordinated Local Health System Pandemic Plan for York Region that outlines the roles of primary care, long-term care, Community Care Access Centres, the hospitals and the public health unit. According to this plan, the Public Health Branch in partnership with local healthcare providers will operate up to three centres for primary assessment of individuals with influenza-like-illnesses. Each of these centres will be associated with a hospital (i.e. Southlake, York Central, Markham-Stouffville). The hospitals will operate secondary flu assessment centres to manage the more seriously ill individuals. Local plans vary by health unit according to the needs and capabilities of communities. At this time, the City of Toronto has a similar plan.

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization declared an influenza pandemic of mild-moderate severity because of evidence of widespread transmission of a novel influenza virus in several countries and cases of severe illness in previously healthy young adults.

For three weeks, the Public Health Branch partially activated the Health Emergency Operations Centre; a physical location with comprehensive telecommunications capabilities, to coordinate various aspects of emergency response between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, public health, and other sectors. This included, for example, the dissemination of important health notices for the health care sector and guidance protocols to schools and daycares. The Branch also enhanced the staffing and telephone capacity of Health Connection, a public health telephone information service for the general public. This involved redeployment of a proportion of Public Health staff and some associated overtime costs.

#### **The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care advises public health units to prepare for an unusual and busy flu season in the upcoming autumn**

The influenza season in North America typically begins in late autumn and winter. This summer, the amount of influenza illness due to H1N1 activity in North America has been exceptionally high. It is uncertain how the H1N1 virus will behave in the upcoming autumn, so the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care advises public health units to prepare for an unusual and busy flu season.

Clues about how H1N1 might behave this autumn come from countries in the southern hemisphere. According to the World Health Organization, these countries have experienced a slightly worse than normal flu season. Notably, 80% to 90% of the influenza illness in these countries this season has been caused by H1N1, which is predominating over the expected seasonal influenza strains.

To better understand the pandemic influenza virus and its impact on our health care system, the Public Health Branch is co-operating with local hospitals, primary care settings and schools to systematically collect and analyze health-related data from those settings. These public health surveillance activities will inform the Branch about disease activity and severity and the health system's capacity to cope with the burden of illness as we move into the autumn.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

##### **Public Health Branch to operate H1N1 influenza immunization clinics in addition to seasonal influenza immunization clinics**

Vaccination is the best defence against influenza. Production of a vaccine against the pandemic H1N1 strain is underway, and the first dose is expected to be ready for distribution by mid-November. The Province has directed Ontario health units to take a lead role in administering this pandemic H1N1 vaccine to priority groups, which have yet to be announced. This will also involve tracking vaccine uptake and monitoring for adverse events. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide software to assist with this task. The Public Health Branch will also be responsible for delivering seasonal influenza immunization clinics, which may be targeted to priority populations at greater risk of complications from seasonal influenza, depending on evolving science.

In a typical influenza season the Public Health Branch administers a total of 13,000 doses of influenza vaccination which covers about 1% of the Region's population. Depending on the size of the population targeted to receive the H1N1 vaccine, the Branch will likely have to significantly increase its capacity to meet this requirement. The Branch plans to operate five immunization clinics in co-operation with the local municipalities. Site selection for clinics is underway, based on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping of demographic groups that are likely to be identified to initially receive the vaccine. One clinic can serve up to 2,300 clients per day. Based on the number of nursing staff, at most, the branch can operate five clinics in one day, which should provide the capacity to administer a total of 11,500 vaccinations daily.

## **Public Health Measures for Pandemic Influenza**

The Public Health Branch may be seeking support from the Region, through training and redeployment of staff, to fill non-nursing roles at H1N1 immunization clinics. The Branch will be seeking assistance for nursing roles from community nursing agencies to enhance staffing. Additional services, such as security and custodial care, will also need to be purchased. The Ministry is stockpiling supplies such as needles and syringes to support the operation of these clinics, and is expected to reimburse health units on a per dose basis. The reimbursement rate to administer the seasonal flu vaccine is \$5.00 per dose. However, this rate is currently under review by the Ministry.

### **Public Health Branch to operate up to three influenza assessment centres funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Dr. Arlene King, the Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, have instructed Ontario public health units, in accordance with the Ontario Health Plan for Influenza Pandemic, to prepare to operate influenza assessment centres. The purpose of the centres is to provide surge capacity when the primary care system is overwhelmed to ensure residents have rapid access to antiviral medication.

Should the Public Health Branch open influenza assessment centres, these will be mostly staffed by nurses, who will prescribe antivirals under a medical directive. A medical directive is an order from a regulated health professional with legislative ordering authority that permits performance of a procedure by another. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is investigating indemnification and liability issues related to operating flu assessment centres under medical directives. The Ministry is also looking at ways to more actively engage the primary care sector in the operation of flu assessment centres.

The Public Health Branch does not routinely operate influenza assessment centres. The Province has indicated that it will reimburse health units for the operation of these centres. The details of this reimbursement have yet to be communicated. The Branch intends to redeploy a proportion of its staff to manage and co-ordinate three centres in York Region, and to seek support from the Region for information technology and records management. Redeployment strategies as well as appropriate training and safety protocols for transferred staff are currently being developed. The Branch will be seeking assistance from community nursing agencies to enhance staffing at influenza assessment centres. Services such as security and custodial care will also be purchased. One influenza assessment centre can serve up to 150 clients per day.

**Communication requirements in autumn may again involve partial activation of the Health Emergency Operations Centre and enhancement of Health Connection**

In order to maintain coordination and communication between community stakeholders such as school boards and hospitals, it may, again, be necessary to partially activate the Health Emergency Operations Centre.

Public health has a major responsibility to educate the public about the evolving pandemic scenario and relevant public health response measures. The capacity of the Health Connection telephone service will need to be enhanced to meet the demands of the public during the pandemic. Additional branch staff will be trained and redeployed to answer the information needs of the general public.

**Public Health Branch will need additional staff and resources to carry out immunization clinic, influenza assessment centre and communications requirements**

The Public Health Branch has identified critical essential public health services, such as investigation of reportable disease and protection of safe water that must continue during a pandemic in order to protect the health of York Region residents. Branch staff assigned to these functions would not be available for redeployment. Given the demands of maintaining essential services, operating the Health Emergency Operations Centre, and enhancing Health Connection, the Public Health Branch could meet approximately 50% of estimated staffing requirements for five immunization clinics and three influenza centres by maximizing staff training and redeployment.

Table 1 summarizes staffing estimates to operate immunization clinics and influenza assessment centres.

**Table 1**  
**Estimated Total Staffing Requirements and Client Volume**  
**For Public Health Measures to Respond to H1N1**

|                              | <b>Estimated Total Staffing Requirement</b> | <b>Clients per Day</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Immunization Clinics         | 273                                         | 11,500                 |
| Influenza Assessment Centres | 166                                         | 450                    |

**Augmenting public health staffing by one Associate Medical Officer of Health would enhance communicable disease crisis management**

Communicable disease crises such as an influenza pandemic require adequate public health leadership for public health management of the disease, and to provide administrative management of numerous resulting issues. Comparisons with neighbouring public health units suggest that other jurisdictions are better resourced with Associate Medical Officers of Health, who can provide the necessary expertise and guidance during a crisis. Table 2 shows the number of Associate Medical Officers of Health in adjacent health units.

**Table 2**  
Number of Associate Medical Officers of Health  
In Adjacent Health Units

| Jurisdiction | No. of Associate Medical Officers of Health    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Durham       | * 0                                            |
| Peel         | 3 + 1 Senior Academic Public Health Specialist |
| Simcoe       | 3                                              |
| Toronto      | 11                                             |
| York         | 1                                              |

\* Durham has one Infections Disease Physician Specialist and 1.6 Associate Medical Officer of Health vacancies.

Filling an existing Public Health Branch vacancy with an Associate Medical Officer of Health with communicable disease expertise would not only benefit York Region residents during out-of-the-ordinary public health crises, but would also help address and resolve local public health issues after pandemic concerns subside.

**H1N1 may also have an impact on other regional services, resources and staff**

The Community and Health Services Department is currently reviewing its business continuity plans with an emphasis on pandemic influenza preparation. If H1N1 activities increase in the autumn, an unusually high degree of absenteeism may result throughout the Regional Corporation as a consequence of illness. Departmental and regional staff redeployment and resource reallocation may become necessary to maintain critical and essential services to the residents of the Region, including supporting public health pandemic response measures, for the duration of the pandemic. Collaboration and planning with other regional departments and external partners will continue to address the health, safety and well being of our residents and staff in response to the pandemic influenza virus H1N1. Although strategies and preparations are ongoing for the potential redeployment of staff, it cannot be assumed that all staff will be willingly reassigned. In such event, it may be necessary to find ways to invite staff to accept alternate

assignments. The Region will engage the unions to discuss their cooperation in staff redeployment strategies.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Costs have been estimated for public health measures that may be required to respond to H1N1 in the autumn**

The estimated costs to operate daily immunization clinics and influenza assessment centres for eight weeks in the autumn are outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3**  
Estimated Costs to Operate Immunization Clinics and Influenza Assessment Centres

|                                  | Estimated Cost per Site for 1 week | Estimated Cost per Site for 8 weeks | Estimated Total Cost for 8 weeks |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Immunization Clinics (5)         | \$158,815                          | \$883,949                           | \$4,393,747                      |
| Influenza Assessment Centres (3) | \$134,898                          | \$754,300                           | \$2,250,341                      |

Enhancing the capacity of the Health Connection telephone service by staff from other Public Health Branch programs would cost approximately \$77,340, which would be covered under current cost-shared funding.

**Regional funds required to cover upfront costs of these public health measures in anticipation of eventual provincial reimbursement**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is currently reviewing its reimbursement rates for influenza immunizations and immunizations given as part of the school-based immunization programs. The Ministry has also indicated that it will reimburse the Region for the costs of implementing and operating influenza assessment centres. However, specific details have not been provided by the Ministry related to the process for reimbursement nor eligible costs.

The Region will be required to cash flow expenditures until reimbursed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Should funding not be received from the province to reimburse costs associated with public health pandemic response measures, funding from any overall surplus in Regional programs is requested. In the event that this funding does not fully offset expenditures incurred, it is requested that the balance of funding be contributed from the tax stabilization reserve. Currently, best estimates predict a total cost of approximately \$6.7 million for public health pandemic response. Based on an estimated reimbursement for immunization clinics of \$5 per dose (\$2.3 million) and full recovery of influenza

## **Public Health Measures for Pandemic Influenza**

assessment centre costs (\$2.3 million), the potential Regional cost exposure is approximately \$2.1 million.

### **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

According to the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic, municipal governments and local public health authorities are responsible for coordinating the local response to an influenza pandemic, including plans to provide mass immunization and influenza assessment centres. Dialogue between the Region and the local area municipalities is underway to examine siting requirements and potential impacts on municipal facilities and service levels.

### **7. CONCLUSION**

As North America approaches its typical influenza season it is quite likely that the level of pandemic H1N1 activity will increase. Operation of the response measures outlined in this report exceeds current capacity and resourcing. It is necessary that the Region release funds for the estimated costs provided to support the response measures necessary to protect the health and welfare of the residents of York Region.

For more information on this report, please contact Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health at Ext. 4012.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

Recommended by:

Approved for Submission:

Joann Simmons  
Commissioner of Community and Health  
Services

Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

September 15, 2009

EW/nd



# York Region

Community and Health Services Department

September 23, 2009

Mr. Clayton Harris  
City Manager  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major MacKenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

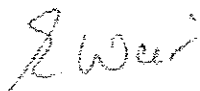
Dear Mr. Harris:

**Re: H1N1 Immunization Clinics**

As you know, our respective organizations have been engaged in planning discussions to respond to the H1N1 pandemic influenza. The Region is seeking municipal partners to host immunization clinics where targeted groups of residents can receive free vaccinations for the H1N1 influenza, according to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care directions. The current plan involves operating immunization clinics at five sites distributed throughout the Region. Certain criteria, including population density and the distribution of disease patterns in the Region, is being used to guide site selection.

In accordance with the request from the City of Vaughan Emergency Management Program Committee, I am writing to request your City's assistance in establishing one H1N1 immunization clinic in the City of Vaughan. If this is amenable, Regional staff will follow-up with City staff to solicit their input on the preferred venue for the clinic and issues relating to site planning and logistics.

Sincerely,



Dr. Erica Weir, MD, MSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Associate Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health Branch  
Community and Health Services Department

Copy to: Sharon Walker, Manager, Emergency Planning, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service  
Joann Simmons, Commissioner, Community and Health Services, York Region  
Loretta Chandler, Manager, Emergency Management, York Region