



Health and Healthy Living

Public Health Division

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To: Chief Executive Officers: Regional Health Authorities

Regarding: Planning for the possibility of Mass Immunization

In light of the recent emergence of H1N1 Influenza the World Health Organization has begun coordinating efforts to develop a H1N1 vaccine. Canada has a contractual agreement with GlaxoSmithKline for the production of a 'pandemic vaccine'. Vaccine development is a complex undertaking and as such precise timelines for development are subject to considerable variation. While it is expected that H1N1 vaccine could be available within a 30 to 52 week timeframe, it is imperative that public health programs across the province are prepared to deploy H1N1 Vaccine if and when it becomes available.

Regions need to plan for the possibility that mass immunization will be coordinated by public health and that regions will need to coordinate with other providers, within their regions, regarding the best way to manage immunization as the situation evolves.

As such, I am recommending that all public health programs in Manitoba commence mass immunization planning activities with the above timelines in mind.

If there is a change in these recommendations, you will be notified promptly. Please take steps to ensure this information is shared widely with all appropriate staff in your region.

Yours truly,

"Original signed by Bunmi Fatoye"

Bunmi Fatoye, MD, FRCPC
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Novel A/H1N1 Influenza Response

cc

Regional Medical Officers of Health
Public Health Managers
First Nations and Inuit Health