

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE (AMMI) CANADA

For Immediate Release

ID Specialists encourage everyone to be vaccinated against pH1N1

October 27, 2009 (Ottawa) – Canadian Infectious Disease specialists and microbiologists have collaborated globally with public health officials to track the emergence and spread of pH1N1 and develop strategies to control its spread and impact including the development of a safe and effective vaccine. AMMI Canada, the professional society representing ID Specialists and Medical Microbiologists, encourages everyone to be vaccinated because this is our most effective strategy to battle pH1N1. By getting immunized, Canadians will play an important role in controlling this influenza pandemic.

AMMI Canada members have been at the forefront of the response to pandemic influenza. AMMI Canada is confident that all existing scientific data was considered in the approval process for the pH1N1 vaccine. “Regulatory and public health officials have completed important steps with a tremendous effort to make the pH1N1 vaccine available to Canadians,” says AMMI Canada President Dr. Gerald Evans. Anyone who has decided not to get vaccinated should seriously question why they have made that decision and consider the implications of failing to get immunized will have on themselves and those they care for. The present evidence supports a vaccine that is 90% effective and safe in adults. “Without question, the benefits of receiving the pH1N1 vaccine vastly outweigh any potential risks,” says Dr. Evans, who received his pandemic influenza vaccine on Monday.

AMMI Canada commends the pandemic preparedness efforts of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and their ability to work to deliver the pH1N1 flu vaccine to Canadians, allowing immunization to get underway as quickly as possible.

AMMI Canada members have been and continue to be directly involved in advising PHAC and provincial authorities on the medical and scientific data needed to respond effectively to the pH1N1 virus. We are committed to working together with other clinical, public health and international partners in support of our mutual goal to take the appropriate actions to manage patients and prevent deaths due to pandemic influenza.

In the meantime, it is essential that all Canadians and especially persons at high risk to suffer severe illness from influenza receive the pH1N1 vaccine as soon as possible.

About AMMI Canada

Preventing and Treating Infectious Diseases

AMMI Canada is the national association that represents physicians and researchers specializing in the fields of medical microbiology and infectious diseases.

Through promotion of the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of human infectious diseases and by our involvement in education, research, clinical practice and advocacy, AMMI Canada aims to serve and educate the public and also to enhance the career opportunities of its members through professional development and advocacy initiatives.

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