

News Release

H1N1 Mass Immunization Clinics Great Success

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 18, 2009) – Nunavummiut decided to keep themselves and their families healthy this flu season and came out in droves to be immunized against the H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses – in fact more than 18,724 Nunavummiut were vaccinated during the past 16 days.

Health Canada authorized use of the H1N1 vaccine on October 21 and nine days later Nunavut rolled out its first mass vaccine campaign ever. Five Flu Vaccine Teams, each comprised of three nurses, joined forces with local health centre staff in each hamlet to run the mass vaccination clinics. They traveled simultaneously to regions, visiting all communities to administer the vaccine.

"The mass vaccine clinics were a huge success," said Hon. Tagak Curley, Minister of Health and Social Services. "There are some communities where as many as 90% of the residents got vaccinated. The weather cooperated and we completed the rounds throughout the territory on schedule."

The flu teams will be revisiting any communities where the uptake was on the low side.

"Seasonal flu vaccination update last year was 27% throughout Nunavut and the department is very pleased it almost doubled in number this year", said Minister Curley.

Any Nunavummiut that missed the mass vaccination clinics will still be able to get their H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines at their local health center, free of charge.

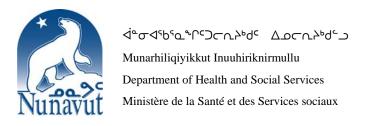
Community Vaccine Clinic success rates are attached.

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Nunavut H1N1 Vaccine Uptake by Community as of November 16, 2009

| Community Name | H1N1 Vaccinations Completed | Population | Percentage of Population |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Arctic Bay | 651 | 720 | 90% |
| Arviat | 1100 | 2205 | 50% |
| Baker Lake | 900 | 1842 | 49% |
| Cambridge Bay | 1091 | 1599 | 68% |
| Cape Dorset | 614 | 1319 | 47% |
| Chesterfield Inlet | 190 | 362 | 52% |
| Clyde River | 775 | 873 | 89% |
| Coral Harbour | 242 | 833 | 29% |
| Gjoa Haven | 708 | 1124 | 63% |
| Grise Fiord | 106 | 131 | 81% |
| Hall Beach | 398 | 674 | 59% |
| Igloolik | 884 | 1617 | 55% |
| Iqaluit | 4000 | 6630 | 53% |
| Kimmirut | 285 | 430 | 66% |
| Kugaaruk | 451 | 716 | 63% |
| Kugluktuk | 814 | 1390 | 59% |
| Pangnirtung | 787 | 1414 | 56% |
| Pond Inlet | 640 | 1398 | 46% |
| Qikiqtarjuaq | 383 | 503 | 76% |
| Rankin Inlet | 1300 | 2559 | 51% |
| Repulse Bay | 660 | 813 | 81% |
| Resolute Bay | 170 | 246 | 69% |
| Sanikiluaq | 600 | 779 | 77% |
| Taloyoak | 700 | 885 | 79% |
| Whale Cove | 275 | 375 | 73% |
| TOTAL | 18724 | 31437 | 60% |

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