

Health Unit Media Release

For Immediate Release: Nov 2, 2007



Tri-County Health Unit Testing Emergency Plan with Mass Immunization Exercise

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit will be conducting a mass immunization exercise on Friday November 30th, 2007 at the County Fair Mall in Smiths Falls from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. This exercise is in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

In addition to the public clinic at the mall, teams of public health nurses and support staff will be offering flu shots to students, staff, and parents in selected schools in the area on the same day. **These clinics will not be open to the public.**

At the same time the clinics are occurring, senior Health Unit staff will undergo a tabletop exercise with the province to work through any unforeseen challenges that would impact the clinics if we were experiencing a true pandemic. In addition to our area, there are three other public health units in the province that will also be participating in similar exercises.

“The ultimate purpose of this exercise will be to immunize as many of the residents on this one day as part of our pandemic planning preparation. We will be working with our community partners to assist us in achieving this goal”, says Margaret Hendriks, Public Health Nurse.

All of us can help prevent the spread of influenza now. Protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Get your annual flu shot
- Wash your hands regularly and well
 - Check out proper handwashing method on our website at <http://www.healthunit.org/handwash/soapwater.html>
- Observe proper cough/sneeze etiquette (Cough/sneeze in your sleeve)
 - Check out proper cough/sneeze etiquette on our website at http://www.healthunit.org/infectious/id_factsheets/covercough_hcp8-5x11.pdf

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