

Flu clinics winding down— last one in Georgetown on Tuesday

By **TIM FORAN**
Metroland Media Group

Halton Region's health department will offer both the H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines at public immunization clinics this month, the last ones planned by the department for this season.

"There's another three, four, five months of peak time for influenza," said Dr. Monir Taha, Associate Medical Officer of Health for Halton Region. "If you haven't got your vaccine, it's still a reasonable thing to get."

The clinics will provide an opportunity to get flu shots for children, who require a second dose of either of the vaccines, or people who haven't received them yet. For children getting their second dose of one of the vaccines, the Region is reminding residents to bring a record of the first shot.

The seasonal flu and pandemic H1N1

are different strains of the influenza virus, therefore it is necessary to receive both vaccines, according to health officials.

The unadjuvanted form of the H1N1 vaccine will also be available, for pregnant women only, at the Oakville clinics.

While both vaccines will continue to be available at some walk-in clinics, pharmacies and doctors' offices, the Region's remaining flu clinic in Georgetown is on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2-5 p.m. at the Gellert Centre.

Up to the end of 2009, the Region's health department had administered 89,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine at its own clinics. It distributed 63,500 doses

to physicians, hospitals, other health care providers and workplaces and agencies.

The fall wave—the second in 2009—with zero positive lab confirmed cases of the virus since approximately the beginning of December, said Taha.

H1N1
in Halton



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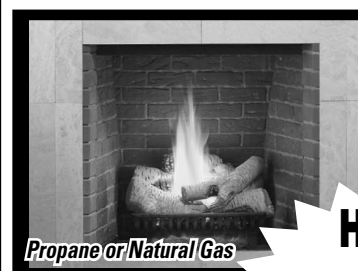
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"A third wave is possible but not necessarily probable," he said. With the number of people who have been exposed to the H1N1 virus or have received the vaccine against it, it isn't likely there are a large number of people still susceptible.

However, with up to five more months remaining in the typical peak flu season, it is possible for the regular seasonal flu to make the rounds, he said.

For more details about the clinics or the flu go to www.halton.ca/flu or call 311.

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