

Flu rates on the rise in Halton

By Marta Marychuk
Oakville Beaver

Seasonal influenza is increasing in Halton, but the worst may be yet to come with a surge in cases expected over the next couple of weeks in Ontario.

Kari Veno, a senior communications consultant for Halton Healthcare, confirmed in an email, there has been an increase in influenza-like cases in the emergency departments at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Georgetown Hospital.

The number of influenza cases at Halton Healthcare is much higher in December 2016 and January 2017 compared to the same time last year, Veno added.

Halton Healthcare has also been experiencing a rise in admissions for pneumonia-triggered (or associated) with influenza primarily affecting the very young and people over 75.

Although the number of influenza cases has increased, Veno said activity has not yet peaked in our area and Halton Healthcare is expecting a surge of cases over the next couple of weeks.

Although the benefits of getting a flu shot decreases after the peak of flu

activity is reached, there is still some benefit in getting a flu shot, Veno said.

It takes two weeks for the flu vaccination to provide protection, and because Ontario is approaching the peak of flu activity now, the vaccination has some but less benefit than earlier in the season.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, influenza activity has been increasing across the country. A total of 1,948 cases were reported by the end of last year, which is the most recent data.

The elderly, children and people with chronic illnesses are at greater risk of more severe complications.

Symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, runny eyes, stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, weakness and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea.

Residents are reminded that hospital emergency departments are for urgent, immediate and unscheduled healthcare services.

If someone is unsure of going to an emergency department, they should call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

THE GEORGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY 2017 Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017
10:00 A.M.

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By Cory Soal
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