

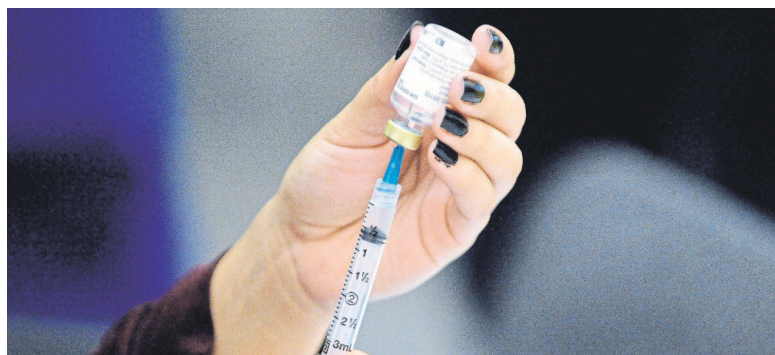
DELAYED FLU VACCINES ON THEIR WAY

If you've tried unsuccessfully to get your flu shot because of vaccine shortages, the reasons behind that are two-fold, according to the Ministry of Health.

"The identification of the common influenza strains circulating this year by the World Health Organization (WHO) took longer than usual. One of the strains was identified approximately one month later than usual. This resulted in a delay in the manufacturing of the flu vaccine this year," said David Jensen, media relations coordinator with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Additionally, there have been production issues with some of the manufacturers of the flu vaccine, he said.

Health care providers and pharmacies will receive their supply of flu vaccines in the com-



Torstar file photo

Above: Delayed flu vaccines are on the way to Halton. Top right: Chart A shows the number of laboratory confirmed flu cases reported to Halton Region's public health department over the past five flu seasons. Right, Chart B shows the number of reported flu outbreaks in Halton long-term care facilities and retirement homes in the last five years.

ing weeks, said Jensen.

The distribution of available vaccine did begin at the end of September, as it normally does, for seniors and individuals who are at high risk for flu complications and hospitalization.

Concerns have been raised about the upcoming flu season because of Australia's severe season, however, "it is unclear what this means for Ontario given our very different preceding season and inter-season activity."

"Monitoring and preparedness

for any early or unusual influenza activity in 2019-20 has begun and will continue throughout the season," said Jensen. "The ministry continues to monitor global influenza trends and surveillance data, including those in the southern hemisphere."

Last year, Halton Region reported fewer confirmed flu cases than the year prior. Chart A shows the number of confirmed flu cases over the past five years, however, the actual number of cases is likely more because

2018/2019	595
2017/18	697
2016/17	475
2015/16	515
2014/15	517

2018/19	10
2017/18	50
2016/17	30
2015/16	11
2014/15	41

Halton Region photo

many infected people don't seek medical attention, or laboratory testing is not done, according to the region.

Last year also saw fewer flu outbreaks in long term care facilities and retirement homes than the previous year. See Chart B for those numbers from the past five years.

POLICE INVESTIGATING FOLLOWING BREAK-INS TO BUSINESSES

Halton police are investigating following smash-and-grab style break-ins to a pair of businesses in Georgetown Tuesday, Oct. 8.

At 12:50 a.m., someone approached a nail salon, located on Main Street North, near Moore Park Crescent, and smashed the front glass door, police said.

The intruder entered the business and stole a small amount of cash from the cash register.

The individual then smashed the front glass door of a neighbouring hair salon, entered and stole a small amount of cash from the cash register.

No employees were present at the time of the break-ins and no suspect description is available.

The suspect's vehicle is described as a 2008-2019 Dodge Caravan that is black or dark in colour.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Halton police at 905-825-4747 ext. 2410 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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Volunteer Application available online at:
<http://bttr.im/m3cmf>

Volunteer Information Evening: Nov 4th, 7:30 PM

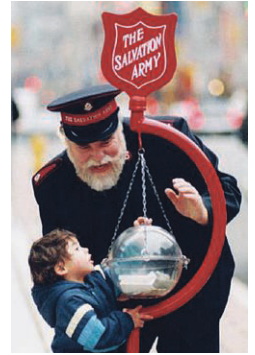
Place: Georgetown Community Church
271 Mountainview Rd S.

Kettle Kick-Off: Thurs Nov 21st, 7:30 PM

Place: Georgetown Marketplace
Everyone is invited to Join Us!

Applications for Assistance:


Starting Nov 19th to Dec 13th, 2019
Tues., Wed., & Thurs.: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Place: Georgetown Community Church, 271 Mountainview Rd S
Please Call to Book an Appointment



Toy Drive Donations Are Needed by December 16th, 2018

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For more information contact:

Kettle Coordinator: Emily Harman
905-877-1374 ext. 103
Emily_Harman@can.salvationarmy.org

Donations towards our Christmas campaign can be mailed to:
The Salvation Army, PO Box 199, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4Y5