

# Short waits at Markham H1N1 clinic

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"I'm not aware of anyone saying they are not in the priority group and being vaccinated," said Glendene Collins, spokesperson for Durham Region Public Health. "We would encourage people to get vaccinated locally. ... But this program is open to all Ontario residents."

Those deemed vulnerable to the flu are pregnant women, children six months of age but under five years of age, health-care workers, caregivers of those vulnerable and unable to be vaccinated, those under 65 with pre-existing health conditions and people who live in remote or isolated com-

munities.

Despite some non-priority group people being vaccinated in Uxbridge, the lineups around Durham and York regions have slowed.

"In the last few days we have seen a significant decrease in our wait times and in some of our clinics there were no wait times and you could just walk right in," Ms Collins said.

The clinic in Markham, at 8100 Warden Ave., has 47 staff, including 16 nurses with the EMS on hand to assist with the immunizations, while the fire department is helping with the screening process. The clinic has not put a cap on the number of patients it can serve in a day, however,

on Monday only 821 came through.

Joey Davidson, York Region's director of infectious disease, said it is hard to tell if there were more or less people at the Markham clinic, versus the other four York Region clinics, because of its large waiting area.

One resident arrived at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning, but said he could have easily shown up at 8 or 9 a.m. and still received the shot in quick fashion.

Markham's vaccine clinic is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 18.

With files from Torstar News Service, L.H. Tiffany Hsieh and Keely Grasser

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