

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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HLTC2966MC-2009-9040

Mr. Fred LeBlanc
President
OPFFA
292 Plains Road East
Burlington ON L7T 2C6

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

Thank you for your correspondence, on behalf of the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, about the sequence in which Ontarians will be provided with H1N1 vaccinations. Before reviewing the vaccination sequence, it is important to understand that there will be sufficient H1N1 vaccine available in Ontario for everyone who needs and wants to be immunized. In addition, all current evidence suggests that the H1N1 virus results in cases of influenza that, in most cases, are similar to the illness that people experience in a normal flu season.

All of the vaccine will not be ready at the same time. The immediate priority will be to target those who will benefit most from immunization, as well as those who care for people most at risk. These priority targets include:

- persons with chronic medical conditions
- pregnant women
- children 6 months to less than 5 years of age
- persons residing in remote and isolated settings or communities
- health care workers involved in pandemic response or who deliver essential health services
- household contacts or caregivers of those at high risk who cannot be immunized
- populations otherwise identified as high risk

I can assure you that this province's senior public health officials worked closely with the federal government and other provinces and territories to develop this guidance for H1N1 vaccine sequencing. The approach is balanced, objective, and reflects the best scientific and technical information available. Ontario strongly supports this national approach to H1N1 vaccine sequencing which is consistent with the values of Canadians.

...2

Mr. Fred LeBlanc

I would like to thank you again for bringing the concerns of your association to the attention of the ministry. I am grateful for the positive efforts of many Ontarians that are taking the initiative to prepare for a probable resurgence of the H1N1 flu. We are working together to ensure that we can continue to classify the H1N1 flu outbreak as a mild illness in Ontario. I believe that we have a good plan to provide the greatest protection from the flu to the people that are most in need of this protection.

Yours sincerely,



David Caplan
Minister

c: Premier Dalton McGuinty, MPP
Hon. Rick Bartolucci, MPP