

# Health unit preparing pandemic protocol

By WES KELLER  
Freelance Reporter

Wellington Dufferin Guelph Health Unit is preparing a pandemic protocol for the probable onslaught of "swine flu," more correctly "novel influenza A (H1N1) or novel A/H1N1," but generally has to await guidance from federal and provin-

cial public health officials. In a phone interview Tuesday, Communications specialist Lucia Zdeb said the health unit has yet to receive such guidance. She couldn't say whether prioritization of who should receive the vaccine in the event of a short supply had been decided, and suggested contacting the higher authorities.

Medical Officer of Health Dr. Nicola Mercer was on vacation and not available for comment. In an earlier e-mail response, Emergency Planning Co-ordinator Tracey Croft said, "I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we are currently very busy looking ahead and preparing for the fall at the agency — the written plan document is off-line for a bit while we incorporate lessons learned from the spring H1N1 wave. We've also been active with our community partners and have been for some time on this issue."

At the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Andrew Morrison said consideration is being given to the need for priorities. He was aware of the U.S. models, but said the province is refining those. "There's a little more work still to be done," he said. According to a source at the Public Health Agency of Canada, "the national policy decision on priority groups for pandemic vaccine will be made based on advice from a Special Advisory Committee made up of Chief Medical Officers of Health.

"This (tri-level committee) will make a recom-

mendation to all provinces and territories to consistently apply the order decided on across Canada. Decisions about priority groups for the pandemic vaccine will be based on a number of factors including scientific evidence, legal, as well ethical and logistical considerations.

"As vaccine production continues over the summer, we are working to learn more about who is most affected by the virus and why. This will help to inform decisions around vaccine prioritization, which will be finalized close to the time when the vaccine is available," a PHAC representative said in an e-mailed response.

"We are still learning more about the H1N1 flu virus, as its origins remain uncertain. We know it involves elements of human, swine, and avian influenza virus, and the first case is believed to have originated in Mexico."

The Globe and Mail recently quoted Dr. David Butler-Jones, head epidemiologist at Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC), on what measures to take to slow down the spread in the meantime: "The key thing will be what we will all do at the end of day. These diseases spread because of what we do or don't do," he explains, listing the common advice to wash hands, sneeze or cough into one's sleeve and avoid others when symptoms appear.

Meantime, the advisory group to the U.S. Centre for Disease Control (CDC) says the most effective vaccine against the virus might be "initially available in extremely limited quantities," and has recommended priorities for two possible scenarios - based on which segments of the population are most at-risk.

Irrespective of the availability of vaccine, "pregnant women (and) people who live with or care for children younger than six months" are at the top of both lists.

If there is enough vac-

cine for 159 million people, health care and emergency services personnel would be next, followed by people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years, those between 25 and 65 with "chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems."

If vaccine is in shorter supply, the CDC model would restrict the health and emergency personnel to those "with direct patient contact." The next two priorities would differ substantially to include children 6 months to 4, rather than 24, years, and children between 5 and 18 years to those with chronic medical conditions.

CDC warns that the swine flu vaccine is not necessarily effective against the seasonal flu. "The novel H1N1 vaccine is not intended to replace the seasonal flu vaccine. It is intended to be used alongside seasonal flu vaccine to protect people. (Both vaccines) may be administered on the same day," CDC says in a July 29 news release.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has found the median age for the "pandemic" flu is "reported to be 12-17 years," based on data from five countries including Canada. But is also says

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Photo/DAN PELTON

A FREE FOOT CHILDREN'S CLINIC is being offered throughout August and September at the Kulhay Wellness Centre in Erin and is open to kids from the Orangeville area. The clinic involves 15 - 30 minutes of time where a child is assessed by the Dr. Katrina Kulhay (shown here with her patient Darcy) as he/she walks. Then the child is asked to walk across the state-of-the-art force plate with sensors that produce 1024 readings of their feet in motion. These determine walking patterns and detects problems and how they can be corrected if needed. Correct shoes for the problem are suggested, ankle / foot supports are suggested if needed, and exercises are recommended to strengthen the feet. For more information, call 519-833-0031.

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Orangeville Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee - monthly committee meeting - Come learn about youth in Orangeville. We're looking for new youth and adult members to help address issues identified in the Youth Summit. 87 Broadway, Council Chambers 519-941-0440. [www.town.orangeville.on.ca](http://www.town.orangeville.on.ca) or [info@orangeville.ca](mailto:info@orangeville.ca)

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Aug. 8	Free Clothes Giveaway 11 to 3 pm, 3 Zina St. Please bring bags. Call Donna 529-941-9037 or Joan at 519-855-4290 for clothes donations.
Aug. 10-14	Vacation Bible School. Westminster United Church. Call 519-941-0381 for info.
Aug. 10	7:00 pm Council Meeting. Council Chambers, main level, Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.
Aug. 11	10:30 am Accessibility Committee. Committee Room, lower level, Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.
Aug. 12	Blood Donor Clinic. Orangeville Best Western Hotel 3:00 - 7:30 pm
Aug. 13	4:30 pm. Council Remuneration Review AD HOC Committee. Committee Room, lower level, Municipal Building, 87 Broadway.

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**Hi, I'm Kirk Bailey**

When I was little, they called me Captain Kirk. My grandfather always calls me Harry. He gave me this nickname when I was only a year old. I have a brother, Matthew. Last year my family went fishing. It was so much fun. I caught my very first fish. Dad took pictures of it. Matthew comes to Community Living Dufferin with me every morning. I sang in Community Living Idol's show this year. I miss it. I liked that show. I would like to do that again. I work at QPAC. It is so much fun and I enjoy it so much. I like going to Options. We go swimming every week. My little brother, Matthew comes with us. We have great fun. I love Harry Potter. I am in a picture with Harry Potter and Hermione from the Harry Potter movie. I like the part in the movie where Harry flies on the broom. I like his school clothes. My dad prints the pictures like "Dr. Who and the Tardis". It is a great show. I like the ones that have his assistant, Rose in it. Harry Potter and "Hi-5" are my favourites. I love movies. Mom and Dad watch "Coronation Street". I like the show too. It is a British show. Most of my T-shirts come from the British store and I really like wearing them.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

HP 4GB microSD Memory Card 10120033. Please note that this bonus product found on page 28 of the July 31 flyer was advertised with the incorrect value. The correct value is \$30, not \$70, as previously advertised. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

The Fast and the Furious Series Limited Edition DVDs 2166545, 2052604, 2120048, 203236. Please note that these DVDs on pop-up page 2 of the July 24 flyer were advertised with the incorrect SKUs. The correct SKUs are 2166547 (Fast & Furious), 2163077 (Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift), 2163076 (2 Fast 2 Furious), and 2163075 (The Fast and the Furious). The prices are the same as advertised. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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