

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

October 22, 2020

No shortage of flu shots, confirms health unit

Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) assures the public that currently there is no shortage of influenza vaccine. NWHU will add additional flu shot appointments to their clinics as vaccine is received from the Ministry of Health throughout the fall. Pharmacies are also experiencing high public interest in flu shots and are using most of their supply in a short time, as they receive additional vaccine every week.

There have been a large numbers of people getting the shot so far this year. “We are pleased to see high public uptake of influenza vaccine, it will help to prevent the spread of influenza,” says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU. “To stay healthy, I strongly encourage everyone in the region to get a flu shot and continue to practise personal preventive measures,” Dr. Young Hoon urges.

Some of the public may be aware of a “high dose” influenza vaccine, which is available to people over 65. Between the high dose and the standard dose, one is not preferred or recommended over the other. The high dose vaccine may not be available in sufficient quantities for all people over 65 years old, but the standard dose is available. The most important thing is that you get a flu shot - either type will protect you.

To get a flu shot this year, you can:

- Book a shot with NWHU at www.nwhu.on.ca or 1-866-468-2240
- Contact your health care provider (especially if you already have an appointment)
- At a local pharmacy

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A reminder to the media that Dr. Kit Young Hoon hosts online COVID-19 media briefings every Tuesday, 10:00 am - 11:00 am CT as well as Q&A sessions for the public every Thursday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT. If you do not have a link to the media briefings, please email jbegg@nwhu.on.ca.