

For Immediate Release

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## ONTARIO PREPARING FOR DELAY IN VACCINE PRODUCTION

*Chief Medical Officer of Health Working with Health Care Partners, Public Health Agency of Canada*

TORONTO – Ontario is taking steps to prepare for an expected delay in vaccine production, Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario’s Chief Medical officer of Health said today.

“Ontario’s universal flu vaccine program will begin later this season than in previous years due to an international vaccine production delay,” said Dr. Basrur. “We are working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, who leads the purchase of flu vaccine on behalf of the provinces and territories.”

Delay in production of influenza vaccine is a global concern. In response, Dr. Basrur has informed Ontario’s public health units of the delay, and will be working with health care providers to develop a plan to ensure those most in need, such as the elderly, receive the vaccine on a priority basis once it becomes available.

“We can all look after our health by eating healthy foods, being physically active and getting enough rest,” said Dr. Basrur. “In addition to vaccination, regular handwashing is an excellent way of reducing our exposure to infectious diseases”.

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