

FOR RELEASE # 07-233  
November 1, 2007

## **2007 INFLUENZA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY**

WHITEHORSE – A campaign promoting influenza vaccinations begins this week in Yukon and four local health associations have joined the Department of Health and Social Services to promote this year’s flu shot campaign.

The Yukon Medical Association, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, the Yukon Public Health Association and the Yukon Pharmacists Association are encouraging their members and members of the general public to get their flu shot.

“We encourage all Yukoners to get their free influenza vaccination this year,” Dr. Bryce Larke, Yukon’s medical officer of health, said. “By protecting yourself, you help protect those around you who are at greater risk of severe illness. These complications can include pneumonia and worsening of underlying chronic heart and chest diseases.”

Influenza, or flu, is caused by a highly contagious virus that affects the respiratory system. Symptoms include the sudden onset of high fever, headaches, muscle aches and pains, chills, chest discomfort and a dry, hacking cough.

Dr. Larke recommends Yukoners roll up their sleeve to receive their shot. “The vaccine will help protect you from some strains of influenza virus, and if you do happen to get influenza, your illness might not be as severe or last as long.”

This year’s campaign again focuses on seniors, people with underlying chronic health problems, household contacts of those at highest risk of severe illness, pregnant women and infants aged six to 23 months, as well as health care workers and front-line essential service workers. “These are our most vulnerable populations and we want to make sure they get influenza vaccine,” Larke said.

Last year’s campaign saw a slight increase in vaccine use from 2005. A total of 7,169 doses of vaccine were given, up from 7,121 the year before. Larke said he hoped to see a much larger increase this year. Vaccination clinics will be held in Whitehorse and rural communities over the next five weeks.

Attached is a list of dates, times and locations where people can obtain their flu shot. Listings can also be found on [www.hss.gov.yk.ca](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca).

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## Flu Immunization Schedule

**Whitehorse Health Centre** Oct. 29, 30, 31, Nov.1, 2  
Nov. 14, 28  
Nov. 17, 24

9 am - 4 pm  
5 pm - 7pm  
10 am – 12 p.m.

In addition: Starting Nov. 5 (Mon. to Fri.)  
8 am - 8:30 am  
3 pm - 4 pm

**Kwanlin Dun Health Centre**  
Oct. 30, Nov. 6

5 pm - 7 pm

In addition: Starting Oct. 29 (Mon. to Fri.)  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

**#2 Hospital Road (Training Room)**  
Nov. 5, 6

9 am – 4 pm

**YG Main Admin. Building (Members Lounge)**  
Nov. 8, 9

9 am - 4 pm

**Elijah Smith Federal Building (Boardroom 1-A)**  
Nov. 20, 21

9 am - 4 pm

**Yukon College (Wellness Room)**  
Nov. 27

9 am - 4 pm

*In the communities, please check with your local health centre for dates and times of your local flu clinic or visit [www.hss.gov.yk.ca](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca).*