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FOR RELEASE #09-255 October 30, 2009

MOH Confirms H1N1 Outbreak at Whitehorse Correctional Centre

WHITEHORSE – Yukon's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, confirmed today the first outbreak of H1N1 at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC).

"At WCC, we are dealing with a small number of inmates who are ill," Hanley said.

Affected inmates have been isolated and are receiving treatment from the jail health staff. Vaccinations at the centre for inmates and staff began Thursday, and Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) has been working with WCC to coordinate the outbreak response.

"We are fortunate that we have not seen an outbreak before now in any of our residential facilities," Hanley added. "However, we do have plans in place to address the outbreak."

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