



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » April 2010 » News Release #10-070

Newsroom

Latest news releases

News by theme

News by department

- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy, Mines and Resources
- Environment
- Executive Council Office
- Finance
- French Language Services Directorate
- Health and Social Services
- Highways and Public Works
- Justice
- Public Service Commission
- Tourism and Culture
- Women's Directorate

News by corporations

- Yukon Development Corporation
- Yukon Energy Corporation
- Yukon Housing Corporation
- Yukon Liquor Corporation
- Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

Joint news releases

Premier's News

News by date

2017 news releases

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

News archive



NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #10-070
April 27, 2010

Important reminders during National Immunization Week

WHITEHORSE – Yukon health centres have extended hours from April 25 to May 1 to help Yukoners, particularly infants and children, catch up on immunizations.

The Whitehorse Health Centre will have extended drop-in hours for immunization. Parents can drop-in with children under the age of five on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Community residents should contact their local health centre for immunization times.

"National Immunization Week is a good time to remind Yukoners that immunizations are a simple step to protect ourselves and others from vaccine-preventable diseases," Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said. "It's not just infants and children who should be immunized. If adults are not fully immunized, they can pass on infections to infants whose immune systems are not fully developed."

The minister pointed to the successful uptake on the H1N1 vaccine last fall and says the immunization campaign was successful in generating a community response to the potential illness.

"We also want to encourage pregnant women who did not receive the H1N1 vaccine to get immunized," Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley said. "Pregnant women and their newborns are particularly vulnerable, so it is important for them to get immunized, especially if H1N1 flu activity occurs this summer or fall."

Hanley recommends pregnant women to visit their local health centre to receive the unadjuvanted vaccine.

Yukoners can check if their immunizations are up-to-date by calling their local health centre. Immunization schedules and fact sheets can be found on the Health and Social Services website: www.hss.gov.yk.ca.

-30-

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