FOR RELEASE
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Flu clinics open across Yukon on October 26

WHITEHORSE—Premier Darrell Pasloski announced today that public flu clinics will open across the territory on October 26. The premier was among the first in Yukon to receive this year's vaccine.

"I encourage everyone to get their flu shot," Pasloski said. "I have already been immunized, as I don't want to risk getting sick, especially with the house sitting. I know all Yukoners have busy lives, and if we can avoid getting the flu, we can look forward to a more enjoyable and productive fall and winter."

Every year, Yukoners are hospitalized because of influenza, with some ending up in intensive care. It is especially important that the very young, the elderly, people with chronic conditions, and those who work in health care get immunized, along with those who live or interact with them.

Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, emphasizes the value of getting immunized against the flu even when the vaccine is not a 100 per cent match for the current strains.

"For a few minutes of your time, for free, you can get a vaccine that will cut your chances of getting influenza at least in half, protect those people at risk of complications from getting influenza, and help limit the circulation of influenza in the community," said Hanley. "That's a pretty good deal."

For the second year in a row, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) have been immunizing their peers in health facilities, resulting in an increase in health professionals obtaining their flu shots. This year, for the first time, LPNs are also immunizing residents in continuing care facilities, freeing up the public health nurses to concentrate on public clinics.

Learn more: Public flu clinic dates and times can be found at Yukon Immunize, or call your community health centre to learn more.

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