



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon's flu vaccine clinics proceeding on schedule**

WHITEHORSE—Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Brendan Hanley advised today that Yukon's flu vaccine supply is not affected by Health Canada's temporary stop use order, and the territory's immunization clinics will go ahead as planned.

Health Canada issued a temporary stop use order late Friday for two flu vaccines manufactured by Novartis, to allow for a full review of the situation by Health Canada.

"Yukon's flu vaccine supply comes from a different, unaffected supplier and Yukoners can be assured that the vaccine used here is safe and reliable. Our public immunization clinics will begin as planned on November 13," Hanley said.

Several other jurisdictions have already temporarily halted their clinics, where no other flu vaccine is available, at the advice of Health Canada. Two of the vaccines being used by these provinces are made by the pharmaceutical firm Novartis and have shown clumping of particles in the vaccine in Europe. The stop use order was issued pending further investigation. Hanley said this should not impact any decision about whether or not to get immunized.

"The best defence against the flu remains immunization, and I encourage Yukon residents to take advantage of the free clinics to protect themselves and those around them," Hanley added.

The flu vaccine is particularly important for persons with chronic medical conditions, seniors, young children and pregnant women. The vaccine is available free of charge to all ages through public flu clinics, Whitehorse Health Centre and rural health centres.

For more information on dates and times of upcoming clinics visit [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/seasonal\\_flu\\_clinics.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/seasonal_flu_clinics.php).

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