

Schools begin plans for kindergartners in all-day classes

Ottawa board looks to adding 45 to 50 new full-day classes with provincial funds

BY JOANNE LAUCIUS, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:08 AM

Ottawa's public school board will be receiving \$4.9 million from the provincial government in the first year of a program to implement all-day kindergarten, while the Catholic board is getting \$2.2 million.

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board said Monday the money will provide funding for about 45 to 50 new full-day classes. But it will likely be at least a month before the boards announce the schools that are chosen as sites for the first year of the initiative, which will not be fully implemented until the 2015-2016 school year.

Lynn Scott, chairwoman of the public board, said the final decisions probably won't be made until January.

In the first year of the all-day program, which starts next September, 35,000 students across the province would be enrolled in the full-day program -- about 15 per cent of kindergartners.

Some parents who want to enrol their children in the program are bound to be disappointed next September.

"There will clearly be those who want it who won't have it available," said Scott. "Members of the board have had parents asking about it. We have had few answers for them."

Ontario's Ministry of Education has pledged that parents will have a list of schools early in 2010. Boards are expected to identify candidate schools that can offer the program in the first year without the cost of additions or renovations, according to a memo to the province's directors of education from assistant deputy education minister Nancy Naylor. Lists of candidate school sites are to be forwarded to the province by the end of November.

Boards have also been asked to identify priority sites for 2011-2012 that need minimal capital funding, along with a planning process to be introduced next February to help identify projects that need to be completed to expand the full-day kindergarten program.

In coming up with the list of schools, boards will have to take a number of other factors into consideration, including the availability of day-care spaces for before- and after-school care at a reasonable cost to parents.

At the same time, boards also must consider the licensed day care that is already available.

"Boards will need to consider whether the community will be best served by selecting schools with existing child-care programs, schools near existing licensed child care, or schools in neighbourhoods where no child care is currently available for four- and five-year-olds," said Naylor's memo.

Another goal of the program is to put a portion of the spaces in low-income neighbourhoods.

However, even those who currently offer licensed child care in existing centres in schools don't know where they will fit into the all-day plan.

"We're eager. We would like to be a partner," said Eleanor Heap, executive director of Ottawa School Day Nursery Inc., which has child-care centres in 14 public board schools. "Nobody knows a thing. We've all been waiting for funding."

Meanwhile, the Catholic and public French-language school boards already offer full-day kindergarten for both four- and five-year-olds. The memo says boards that already offer full-day kindergarten will get early-learning funding, but will need to develop a plan with the ministry for the use of that money.

Introducing full-day kindergarten in Ontario has been controversial, with critics arguing that Ontario can't afford to go ahead with the initiative while the province faces a deficit of \$24.7 billion this year.

The model announced by the province last week uses teachers supported by early-childhood educators, a plan that attracted criticism because of the cost. The guideline for maximum class sizes will be increased from 20 children in a kindergarten to 26.

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GRIPPE A(H1N1)

Chambre des Communes

Débat d'urgence obtenu par le PLC

MARIE VASTEL
LA PRESSE CANADIENNE

Au moment où les files d'attente pour obtenir le vaccin contre la grippe A(H1N1) continuent de s'allonger un peu partout au pays et que le fédéral a laissé savoir qu'il recevrait moins de doses que prévu, les libéraux fédéraux ont obtenu la tenue d'un débat d'urgence au Parlement afin de trouver un moyen de mieux gérer la crise.

À la demande de la critique libérale en matière de santé, Carolyn Bennett, le président de la Chambre a accepté, hier après-midi, de consacrer la soirée à un débat sur la pandémie de grippe H1N1 qui se propage au pays. Le Nouveau Parti démocratique (NPD) et le Bloc québécois avaient indiqué qu'ils appuyaient la demande des libéraux.

M^{me} Bennett veut, entre autres, voir Ottawa dépenser davantage d'argent pour mieux informer les citoyens qui sont de plus en plus confus, d'après elle, à cause des messages contradictoires qu'ils reçoivent sur la campagne de vaccination.

«La brochure de H1N1 a l'air aussi compliquée qu'une déclaration d'impôt», a-t-elle lancé, en point de presse.

Plus d'infirmières demandées

La députée a ajouté que le gouvernement pourrait également débloquer des fonds pour aider les provinces à embaucher davantage d'infirmières, afin qu'elles viennent en aide à leurs

collègues quand il y aura plus de doses de vaccin disponibles. Car les unités de santé publique doivent être rassurées à l'effet qu'elles pourront rémunérer ces infirmières, a fait valoir la députée de Toronto.

« Nous vivons une pandémie en ce moment. Nous voulons que le gouvernement ouvre sa tirelire et qu'il mette l'argent sur le terrain, où les gens en ont manifestement besoin maintenant », a résumé M^{me} Bennett.

Période des questions monopolisée

La réponse du fédéral à la pandémie de grippe a d'ailleurs une fois de plus monopolisé la période des questions, aux Communes lundi, la ministre fédérale de la Santé, Leona Aglukkaq, ayant dû répondre à des attaques de tous les partis d'opposition.

Ce sont les libéraux qui ont mené le bal, le député Bob Rae accusant d'abord les conservateurs d'avoir failli aux deux responsabilités d'un gouvernement fédéral: soit d'avoir un approvisionnement stable de vaccins et d'informer la population du plan de lutte à la pandémie.

Le fabricant québécois du vaccin, GlaxoSmithKline, a fait savoir récemment qu'il livrerait quelque 620 000 doses de vaccins à Ottawa cette semaine, alors qu'il en offrirait environ deux millions de façon hebdomadaire depuis trois semaines, ce qui fait craindre une pénurie à l'opposition.

« Le vaccin est distribué aussi

rapidement que possible et je suis très heureux de rapporter que, sur une base per capita, le Canada compte plus de vaccins H1N1 que tout autre pays dans le monde », a répliqué le ministre des Transports, John Baird, qui a répondu aux premières critiques adressées à sa collègue.

La ministre Aglukkaq a par la suite souligné qu'il aurait été impossible de vacciner 33 millions de personnes en huit jours.

« Tous les Canadiens qui veulent le vaccin pourront le recevoir d'ici Noël », a-t-elle certifié, en rappelant au passage que la distribution du vaccin relevait des juridictions provinciales, renvoyant ainsi la balle à ses homologues provinciaux.

Charest se montre rassurant

Du côté de Québec, le premier ministre de la province, Jean Charest, a une fois de plus voulu se montrer rassurant, lors d'un point de presse à Montréal, en se disant confiant que la campagne d'immunisation serait un succès, malgré les problèmes qu'ont connus certains centres de vaccination depuis une semaine.

« Je constate que partout il y a des difficultés, compte tenu de la tâche et du coefficient de difficulté. Alors au Québec on demande aux gens de suivre les consignes et de respecter le fait que nous y allons d'abord avec les groupes prioritaires », a-t-il réitéré à l'instar des derniers jours.

En réaction au ralentissement du rythme de vaccination
Nouveau groupe prioritaire à GatineauPATRICE GAUDREAU
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Confronté à une première accalmie, hier, le Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Gatineau (CSSS) élargit dès aujourd'hui la vaccination contre la grippe A(H1N1) aux personnes qui habitent avec des enfants de moins de 6 mois.

Après la cohue de la semaine dernière, le centre de vaccination des Promenades de l'Outaouais roulat au ralenti, hier, tout comme celui du centre de jour gériatrique de la Montée Païement, à Gatineau. En fin de journée, la direction du CSSS claironnait sur toutes les tribunes que 200 billets étaient toujours disponibles au centre des Promenades, qui en distribue quotidiennement un millier. Il fallait donc s'adapter, selon le porte-parole Sylvain Dubé.

« On s'est rendu compte qu'on

commençait à avoir une baisse dans le rythme de vaccination, dit-il. Pour s'assurer qu'il soit maintenu, on ajoute un nouveau groupe prioritaire. »

Les personnes qui se présenteront à l'un des deux centres de vaccination de Gatineau devront avoir en main une preuve de l'existence et de l'âge de l'enfant, comme une carte d'assurance-maladie ou un certificat de naissance, de même qu'une preuve de résidence. Ce nouveau groupe prioritaire s'ajoute aux femmes enceintes de plus de 20 semaines et aux enfants âgés de 6 mois à moins de 5 ans, dont la vaccination a débuté la semaine dernière.

Aylmer et ailleurs

L'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais a par ailleurs assuré, hier, qu'un centre de vaccination verrait bientôt le jour dans le secteur

Aylmer. Plusieurs sites potentiels sont sur la table et le projet devrait se matérialiser au cours des prochains jours. « Il est trop tôt pour dire quel site sera choisi, mais une annonce sera faite cette semaine », a indiqué le D^r Guy Morissette.

Entre-temps, la vaccination des clientèles prioritaires prend son envol dans l'ensemble des CSSS de l'Outaouais. Depuis hier, cinq centres de vaccination ont ouvert leurs portes sur les territoires du CSSS du Pontiac, de Campbell's Bay à Fort-Coulonge, en passant par Shawville, Quyon et Chapeau. Certains groupes prioritaires auront aussi accès à des centres de vaccination sur le territoire des CSSS Papineau, Vallée-de-la-Gatineau et des Collines.

La population est invitée à consulter le site www.santeoutaouais.qc.ca pour en connaître les détails.

Une résidente de l'Outaouais perd la vie
Première victimePATRICE GAUDREAU
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La deuxième vague de grippe A(H1N1) a fait une première victime en Outaouais: il s'agit d'une jeune femme de 26 ans, qui souffrait déjà de problèmes de santé chroniques.

L'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais confirme que ce premier décès est survenu samedi soir, dans un établissement de la région. La victime, dont l'identité n'a pas été révélée, n'avait pas encore été vaccinée.

« C'est une personne qui avait une condition chronique sous-jacente », a indiqué le D^r Guy Morissette, président et direc-

teur général de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais, sans plus de détails. « Il y a une enquête de la direction de la Santé publique. »

À l'heure actuelle, les autorités confirment 221 cas de grippe A(H1N1) sur le territoire de l'Outaouais, dont 24 ont nécessité une hospitalisation. La semaine dernière, 43 écoles de la région — presque exclusivement de niveau primaire — affichaient un taux d'absentéisme de plus de 10 %.

La première vague de grippe, qui a frappé la région en avril et en mai, avait aussi fait une victime sur la rive québécoise, soit une personne souffrant d'une maladie chronique.

Production à la baisse
Depuis le début de la période

GRIPPE A(H1N1)



LA PRESSE CANADIENNE

de la deuxième vague

de vaccination, l'Outaouais a reçu près de 60 000 doses, destinées aux travailleurs de la santé et aux clientèles prioritaires. Le nouvel arrivage attendu cette semaine sera moins important, mais contiendra les premières doses sans adjuvant, pour les femmes enceintes de moins de 20 semaines. Le gouvernement fédéral a indiqué que la société GlaxoSmithKline est forcée de réduire sa production à quelque 400 000 doses, cette semaine, afin de fournir des vaccins sans adjuvant.

« On ne sait pas encore combien de vaccins on va recevoir », a indiqué la D^{re} Hélène Dupont, directrice de la Santé publique en Outaouais, parlant d'une « petite quantité » de vaccins avec et sans adjuvant.

Les autorités médicales mar-

tèlent qu'il y aura suffisamment de doses, à condition de respecter la séquence de vaccination des groupes prioritaires. L'objectif, cette semaine, est de compléter la vaccination des travailleurs de la santé, tout en poursuivant l'inoculation des femmes enceintes de plus de 20 semaines et des enfants de 6 à 59 mois.

Quant à la vaccination massive, elle viendra plus tôt que tard, mais certainement pas cette semaine.

« Aussitôt qu'on a vacciné nos travailleurs de la santé et nos groupes prioritaires, on va vacciner 300 à 350 personnes par heure dans les centres de vaccination massive », a indiqué le D^r Morissette. Chose certaine, pas question « pour l'instant » de distribuer des doses aux méde-

cins de famille pour une vaccination en cabinet, comme c'est le cas en Ontario.

« Clinique de grippe »

Par ailleurs, l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais planche sur la création de « cliniques de grippe », qui permettraient d'enlever un peu de pression aux urgences et aux cliniques médicales, en accueillant les patients présentant des symptômes grippaux.

« Ce qu'on ne veut pas, c'est que les gens se retrouvent à la salle d'urgence s'ils n'ont pas besoin d'y être », a commenté le D^r Morissette.

VOIR AUTRES TEXTES

en page 8

Ottawa

La vaccination bat son plein

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Pas moins de 80 000 résidents d'Ottawa ont été vaccinés contre la grippe A(H1N1), en l'espace d'une semaine, soit l'équivalent d'une campagne complète de vaccination contre l'influenza saisonnière.

« C'est le nombre de doses que nous souhaitons avoir administré à cette date. Ce chiffre est encourageant, mais il nous reste encore beaucoup de pain sur la planche. L'élasticité du système de santé à Ottawa est étiré », constate la gestionnaire des cliniques de vaccination, Shauna Graham.

À l'instar de sa voisine québécoise, la ville d'Ottawa devra traiter avec un nombre « temporairement limité » de vaccins, résultat d'une production à la baisse du fabriquant. À l'heure actuelle, près de 50 000 doses sont entreposées au frais dans la capitale. Un nouvel arrivage devrait arriver d'ici la fin de la semaine.

Depuis le 1^{er} septembre, Santé publique Ottawa a confirmé 172 cas de grippe A(H1N1), dont 50 ont nécessité une hospitalisation. Un résident souffrant de troubles médicaux chroniques est décédé. À l'heure actuelle, 96 des 348 écoles de la rive ontarienne signalent un taux d'absentéisme supérieur à 10 %. Le Centre hospitalier pour enfants de l'est de l'Ontario (CHEEO) observe notamment une plus grande affluence à l'urgence. La majorité des centres hospitaliers ont d'ailleurs ouvert des

salles d'urgence consacrées à la grippe.

« Il s'agit pour la plupart de cas bénins, qui peuvent être traités à la maison », a confirmé la médecin adjointe en santé publique d'Ottawa, Vera Etches.

Centres d'évaluation

Question d'alléger le fardeau des urgences et des cliniques médicales, les centres d'évaluation de la grippe entreront bientôt en fonction.

« Ces centres emploieront des médecins et des professionnels de la santé qui pourront évaluer et soigner les gens présentant des symptômes grippaux. Ils constituent une alternative aux urgences et sont principalement destinés à ceux qui n'ont pas accès à un médecin de famille », a indiqué M^{me} Graham, agissant comme porte-parole de Santé publique Ottawa.

Le nouveau système de bracelet a permis d'alléger les temps d'attente, sans pour autant éliminer les files et les refus. Les autorités médicales ont été forcées de réagir à une rumeur voulant que certains bracelets soient revendus sur le Web. Dorénavant, les personnes qui font la ligne pour des membres de leur famille faisant partie des groupes prioritaires doivent fixer tous les bracelets à leur poignet, pour ensuite agir comme accompagnateur lors de la vaccination.

« Même si ça peut constituer un inconvénient, c'est le meilleur moyen de minimiser les abus », a commenté Dan Brisebois, des Services d'urgence de la Ville Ottawa.

Est ontarien

21 000 personnes vaccinées

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Les six cliniques de vaccination de l'Est ontarien ont permis d'immuniser près de 21 000 personnes contre la grippe A(H1N1) le week-end dernier.

Entre 2000 et 2200 personnes ont été inoculées aux cliniques de Casselman, de Clarence-Rockland, d'Alexandria et de Chesterville de vendredi à dimanche derniers tandis qu'à Cornwall, 5000 personnes ont reçu le vaccin.

Une quantité similaire de doses a été administrée au personnel de santé au sein des cinq centres de l'est de l'Ontario. Au total, c'est 10 % de la population qui a été immunisée.

« Règle générale, la campagne de vaccination s'est très bien déroulée, sauf peut-être pour la première journée à Cornwall où

il y a eu de long temps d'attente », a indiqué hier en téléconférence le D^r Paul Roumeliotis, médecin hygiéniste du Bureau de santé de l'est de l'Ontario (BSEO).

Baisse du nombre de doses

Les cliniques se poursuivent ces jeudi et vendredi, aux mêmes endroits de 14 h à 20 h.

Toutefois, le chef de la santé publique ne sait combien de doses il obtiendra de la province d'Ontario. Pour la première ronde de vaccination, le BSEO a obtenu 24 000 doses.

« C'est certain que je ne m'attends pas à en recevoir autant. La campagne qui produit les vaccins a connu des problèmes techniques la semaine dernière et ne pourra rencontrer les chiffres promis. Nous devrions avoir une meilleure idée du nombre d'ici 24 heures », a souligné le D^r Roumeliotis, hier.

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Pandemic of finger pointing

MPs work into night debating who should shoulder blame

By CHRISTINA SPENCER, NATIONAL BUREAU

Last Updated: 3rd November 2009, 3:45am

The federal government faced an avalanche of criticism yesterday from opposition MPs angry at the long waits for the H1N1 vaccine in their ridings.

"I can't believe anybody could look at the lineups and say it's OK," said Liberal health critic Dr. Carolyn Bennett, who succeeded in getting the House of Commons to hold a rare evening emergency debate on the pandemic and inoculation campaign.

"This government has failed in its duties," Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff added.

He said the Tory government had ordered the vaccine too late, rolled it out later than several other countries, and failed to properly explain to Canadians how the vaccination campaign would work, "producing anguish in families."

Many MPs were upset after some private medical clinics reportedly obtained vaccine for paying customers while other Canadians lined up for hours or were turned away.

People are "particularly stunned to watch the rich sail by to get shots at private clinics that they cannot afford," said NDP health critic Judy Wasylycia-Leis, calling it "absolutely galling."

UNDER FIRE

The Tories have been under fire over their H1N1 strategy since late last week, when Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones, said the amount of vaccine available would be drastically reduced this week.

The slowdown is a result of vaccine manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline switching its production line to the more difficult-to-make unadjuvanted version from adjuvanted vaccine.

The federal government wanted to offer unadjuvanted vaccine to pregnant women, though both types are considered safe.

CREATING SHORTAGE

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said GSK only informed the government last Thursday that supply would shrink so drastically this week.

Even so, Bennett said the government should have known that by ordering unadjuvanted vaccine from GSK, the government would be slowing down the manufacture of regular vaccine.

GSK spokeswoman Megan Spore said in an e-mail the manufacturer is "working around the clock and we have shipped almost 7 million doses of the adjuvanted H1N1 vaccine.

"In the weeks ahead there will be millions of doses coming off the production line. But also expect variations at times -- this is a reality of vaccine production worldwide."

Much of the political heat was directed at reports that at least two private clinics, Copeman Healthcare in Vancouver and Medcan in Toronto, had obtained vaccine. Their clients pay annual membership fees.

Aglukkaq rebuffed accusations the controversy had anything to do with the federal government, saying it was up to the

provinces to decide how to deliver the vaccine.

And she said the government opted to complete the manufacture of seasonal flu vaccine before ordering the H1N1 vaccine, on the advice of the chief public health officer.

"There is not a shortage of vaccine; every Canadian will be able to have the vaccine by Christmas," she said last night. "There has been tremendous uptake since the campaign began."

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Autos Careers Classifieds Homes

FRUGA

City tightens H1N1 wristband policy

Word of abuses forces change; several clinics maxed out today

By DONNA CASEY, SUN MEDIA

Last Updated: 3rd November 2009, 4:34am



Christine Roussel Manery cuts the orange wristband off Marc-Andre Dore-Boyer after he received his vaccination yesterday at the Richelieu Vanier Centre. (Darren Brown, Sun Media)

The city's public health department has three to four days of H1N1 vaccine remaining, with officials still unsure about the arrival of a new shipment later this week.

"We strongly remind residents who are not on the priority list to not seek the vaccine at this time," said Dr. Vera Etches, the city's associate medical officer of health.

In a vigorous effort to keep the remaining shots solely for high-risk groups, the city will no longer be vaccinating the healthy parents of kids under five, said Etches.

The city has another 50,000 H1N1 flu shot doses left, with city-run vaccine clinics targeting high-risk groups, including pregnant women, children under five, health-care workers, people with chronic conditions and caregivers of infants under six months.

With Etches calling Ottawa's health-care system "stretched," the city will unveil details of its flu assessment centres today, with community health centres ready to take sick swine flu patients by the end of the week.

Some family medicine health-care teams and urgent-care centres will be the go-to places for ill patients who don't have family doctors. Public health planners hope the assessment centres will keep less-severe H1N1 cases from clogging hospital's emergency departments.

About 100 local family doctors have applied to get the vaccine at their offices, but Etches said it's still at least a week or two away.

West Quebec health officials reported their latest H1N1 death, with a 26-year-old West Quebec woman dying over the weekend at an Outaouais hospital. The woman had an underlying medical condition, said Celine Jacob, spokeswoman for the Outaouais health agency.

Meanwhile, Ottawa tightened up its wristband system for H1N1 flu shots after reports of abuse by some who were selling their spots in the queue for cash.

Effective yesterday, anyone lining up for a bracelet at one of the city's swine flu shot clinics will have their wristband -- along with the extra bands for family members in the high-risk priority groups -- attached to their wrist.

Only when all of the family members show up for their needles will public health staff remove the bracelets, said Dan Brisebois, of the city's emergency services department.

"It's the best way to stop any abuse that's taking place," said Brisebois.

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3 novembre 2009 | Le Droit | JEAN-FRANÇOIS PLANTE | jfplante@ledroit.com

Les 67's font plaisir à 10 000 écoliers

Même s'ils s'inclinent 5-4 en prolongation devant les Petes

Quand Ryan Martindale a forcé la tenue d'une prolongation en marquant le but égalisateur à cinq secondes de la fin de la partie, c'était comme si les 67's d'Ottawa venaient de gagner la coupe Memorial.

MARTIN ROY, LeDroit



Quelque 10 000 écoliers ont assisté au match entre les 67's et les Petes dans le cadre du « school day », hier.

Ils étaient 10 000 écoliers dans le Centre Urbandale à s'époumoner pour acclamer le précieux but en cette première expérience du « school day » à travers la Ligue de l'Ontario. En ce sens, c'est dommage que les Petes de Peterborough (9-9-0) aient gâché le gros party de la foule partisane en fusillade. Ironiquement, c'est un Ottavien qui a marqué le seul et unique but en tirs de barrage quand Ryan Spooner a complètement mystifié Chris Perugini à l'aide d'une série de feintes remarquables.

Les Petes l'ont emporté 5-4, mais les 67's (4-9-4) ont soutiré un point au classement dans ce match présenté exceptionnellement en matinée devant une foule en délire du début à la fin : tout un contraste par rapport aux matches réguliers des 67's à domicile.

Les élèves ont chanté et dansé pendant tous les arrêts de jeux. Tous ensemble, ils ont « vociféré le décompte » avant le début de la première mise en jeu. En troisième période, ils entonnaient le décompte final quand Martindale s'est emparé d'un retour de lancer pour battre Jason Missiaen, un géant de 6' 8" repêché par le Canadien de Montréal en 2008.

Les 67's avaient permis à leurs nombreux admirateurs de se réjouir très rapidement quand Thomas Nesbitt a ouvert la marque sur un beau jeu de Martindale, qui inscrivait un point dans un 15e match de suite, un record dans la LHO cette saison.

Les locaux menaient 3-1 en deuxième période grâce des buts de Tyler Toffoli et Andrew Merrett. Rien ne semblait fonctionner pour les Petes, mais les 67's leur ont donné une seconde vie quand Thomas Nesbitt a écopé d'une pénalité mineure double pour avoir porté son bâton trop élevé. Les Petes

en ont profité pour marquer deux fois et égaler le pointage à 3-3. Matt Puempel et Adam Sedlak ont déjoué Perugini en l'espace de 21 secondes et le vent venait de basculer.

En troisième période, le défenseur Jamie Doornbosch a placé les visiteurs en avance pour la première fois du match à l'aide d'un tir des poignets de la ligne bleue que Perugini aurait dû arrêter. Le vétéran de 18 ans se cherche cette saison comme en fait foi sa moyenne de 4,10 buts alloués par match. L'entraîneur-chef Chris Byrne tente de le relancer en le renvoyant dans le filet le plus souvent possible, mais à un moment donné, les 67's devront coller une série victorieuse.

Les Petes filaient vers la victoire après avoir écoulé une pénalité majeure quand Chris Byrne a mis tous ses oeufs dans le même panier en envoyant ses trois meilleurs attaquants sur la glace. La tactique a fonctionné puisque Toffoli et Anthony Nigro ont préparé le filet dramatique de Martindale pendant que les secondes s'égrenaient au tableau. Zach Kassian avait été le premier marqueur des Petes.



« Nous aurions pu gagner ce match si nous avions profité de nos avantages numériques, mais je retiens que nous avons récolté trois points sur une possibilité de quatre en fin de semaine, ce qui représente une amélioration par rapport à notre début de saison. Nous avons le contrôle du match jusqu'à la pénalité mineure double de Nesbitt. Nous savions qu'ils avaient des bonnes unités spéciales et nous en avons payé le prix », a dit Byrne.

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Dwindling supplies threaten flu clinics

Heed vaccination priority list: health officials

BY LEE GREENBERG AND MOHAMMED ADAM, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:07 AM

H1N1 flu vaccinations could soon be halted altogether in Ottawa and other places where supplies are running thin, says the province's top public health official.

"Our goal is to try to immunize 2.2 million people by the end of this week," said Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, during a press conference in Toronto Monday. "And it is clearly possible that some health units will run out of vaccine before that time."

In Ottawa, public-health authorities have only a three-to-four-day supply of the H1N1 vaccine left, and officials are appealing to Ottawa residents not to go to the flu-shot clinics if they are not in the categories of people at high risk from the illness.

The city's associate medical officer of health Dr. Vera Etches said Monday that the city has only 50,000 doses of the vaccine left of 130,000 that have been shipped here in the last 10 days and she can't stress enough the absolute necessity of vaccinating the people who really need it.

Combined with a small shipment expected later this week, Etches believes there will be enough vaccine to meet the city's need for the rest of the week. Still, the possibility of a shortage means the city has to be vigilant in administering the vaccine to high-risk patients -- and nobody else.

"We've received news from the federal government that vaccine supply will be temporarily limited in the coming weeks and this has refocused our efforts to vaccinate only those who are on our priority list," Etches said.

Those considered at a higher risk of getting the H1N1 flu include people aged 65 and under who have underlying chronic diseases, pregnant women, and children aged between six months and five years.

If vaccinations were to grind to a complete halt, Ontario would revert to a rudimentary strategy, which is reminding people to wash their hands, remain home when sick and cough in their sleeves. The antiviral Tamiflu will also be prescribed for early treatment of the sick, which, according to King, "can in fact reduce the amount of time people shed virus" -- that is, transmit the illness.

King and her Toronto colleagues were reluctant to predict the impact of a complete halt to vaccinations. They said the flu, while it spreads quickly, is not nearly as deadly as had been feared. Only 31 people in the province have died from H1N1 since April. Currently, 82 people are hospitalized with it. The Outaouais experienced its first H1N1 death over the weekend, a 26-year-old woman with underlying health problems.

Etches said the good news for Ottawa is that so far, the city has administered more than 80,000 doses of the H1N1 vaccine, about the same number that is usually given in an entire regular flu season. The numbers have exceeded expectations but Etches said the city has been told by the province that its next supply will be smaller than the city has come to expect.

Another headache facing the city is a shortage of trained people to vaccinate people. While many people have responded to the call for help, Etches said gaps remain.

"We continue to see a lack of capacity that makes it impossible to vaccinate more people than are already being served through our clinics," she said.

Etches did assure Ottawa residents that in time, everyone who wants to be vaccinated will get the shot, but for now, Public Health is asking for understanding and co-operation.

"While we know that there are limited supplies, ultimately people will have the chance to get the vaccine. I urge all residents to be patient. We are doing our utmost to manage the issues related to the pandemic," she said.

Since the beginning of September, 172 laboratory-confirmed H1N1 cases have been reported in the city, she said. Of that number, 50 have required hospitalization and one person with existing chronic medical conditions has died. Etches also said that 96 out of 348 local schools -- just over one in four -- have reported absentee rates higher than 10 per cent, the level at which the public-health authorities must be notified of a possible disease outbreak.

Etches said area hospitals are stretched to the limit as the H1N1 flu spreads through the city and residents flock to the emergency departments. She said family physicians are also reporting an increasing number of phone calls and cases related to flu-like illnesses, even though most are mild.

Some outpatient services at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario -- the most hit -- and Queensway-Carleton Hospital, have been cancelled accommodate the rising number of flu cases. Other hospitals have opened separate "flu emergency rooms" to deal with the influx.

As part of that effort to ease the pressure on hospitals, flu assessment clinics staffed by area doctors and nurses will soon open across the city to assess and treat patients, Etches said. The clinics, likely 10 of them, are aimed primarily at people who don't have family doctors and patients whose symptoms are not severe enough for the emergency department. Patients will not be allowed to stay overnight at the centres, nor will they be given a vaccine.

Plans for family physicians to inoculate people in their offices are continuing and so far, about 100 Ottawa physicians have registered to participate in the vaccination program. Once public health officials have checked to make sure the family doctors have the appropriate facilities, they will be

brought on board. But it will all depend on having enough vaccine to go around.

Etches stressed that there is no need to panic because the H1N1 flu outbreak has so far been mild, and most people have been dealing with it at home.

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Online

Read factsheets, Q&As, and the latest on H1N1

Receive a Twitter feed of the latest on the pandemic

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Hospital wrong to let families get flu vaccine

BY BOB HURTER, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:08 AM

Re: Hospital staff bring family to workplace vaccine clinic, Nov. 1.

The Ottawa Hospital was wrong to vaccinate family members who are not in the five high-risk categories, especially given the scarcity of the H1N1 vaccine.

I cannot believe that Nicolas Ruszkowski, The Ottawa Hospital's vice-president of communications and outreach, thought that there was an ethical question regarding turning away family members. By vaccinating them, the hospital took scarce vaccine away from people in the high-risk categories, including other hospital workers.

As someone with a chronic medical condition, I was vaccinated last Wednesday at the Orléans clinic. Waiting in the auditorium, I heard a volunteer asking if anyone was older than 65. Several people raised their hands, including the gentleman in front of me. The volunteer then spoke with each person. I heard her tell this man that he was not in one of the high-risk groups and he should leave to allow the vaccine to be available for those who were. Without any argument, he did leave.

However, later, after being registered, I was waiting for the shot and noticed several groups of three to eight people being led to the front of the line. In each case, one of them was a health-care worker with an identification card and the rest were obvious family members; for example a mother with teenage daughters. I have absolutely no problem with health-care workers getting their vaccinations ahead of me or others in the high-risk categories as they are on the front lines.

But it is wrong and unethical to abuse their positions to get their families vaccinated at the same time when there are thousands of others in the high-risk categories who need the vaccine ahead of their family members.

Bob Hurter,

Orléans

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School kids raise the roof for 67's

Kanata's Spooner helps Petes take matinée thriller from 67's. Petes 5, 67's 4 (SO)

BY DON CAMPBELL, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:08 AM



Players fed off the unbridled enthusiasm of the school children who took in Monday's unique morning start for the Ottawa 67's game against the Petes.

Photograph by: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen, The Ottawa Citizen

On a special day intended to provide valuable lessons in life for nearly 10,000 elementary school children from across the city, the Ottawa 67's also got into the act and learned a couple of valuable lessons on the ice.

One: no lead is safe when you run into penalty trouble. Two: Ryan Spooner is a special player.

The 17-year-old forward, only four years removed himself from elementary school in Kanata, scored the only goal in a shootout Monday afternoon to give the Peterborough Petes a thrilling 5-4 victory against the 67's, capping an electric day for the more than 200 busloads of students and teachers at the Urbandale Centre.

The 10 a.m. start actually began with a rousing rendition of O Canada ... without an anthem singer. Indeed, the spirit in the seats was almost magical, not unlike Spooner's shootout move against 67's netminder Chris Perugini.

"I was going to shoot high because some of the guys mentioned (Perugini) likes to go down a lot," Spooner said later. "Then, when (Perugini) came out, I just decided to deke."

The game was just as meaningful for the players on the two Ontario Hockey League clubs as it was for the students in the stands.

Without consulting with Petes management, Spooner even volunteered his team for another one.

"It was awesome," he said. "It was really hard to hear out there, but, if they do it again, I'd like to be part of it."

Down the hall, 67's players were already asking team owner Jeff Hunt about the next one.

Around games of Wheel of Character featuring 67's players spinning the wheel, then explaining to the young fans concepts such as fairness, community values, respect, optimism and teamwork, then games of rock-paper-scissors featuring teachers, The Wave and, of course, some Macarena, the 9,000-plus screaming children never had a dull moment.

The two teams also put on a pretty fair show of their own, so much so that, even by keeping the kids late -- not usually a good thing when school's involved -- no one seemed to be complaining.

"This (event) was as cool a thing as I've ever been part of," said Hunt, who added a repeat of the event next season was "a slam dunk."

The shootout loss left the 67's with a 4-9-2-2 record, fifth in the OHL's Eastern Division, but only six points behind the first-place Petes (9-9-0-0).

The 67's might have had two points after putting together what head coach Chris Byrne thought was perhaps 30 minutes of their best hockey this season.

Thomas Nesbitt opened the scoring with his team-leading 10th goal of the season on a great feed by Ryan Martindale near the 10-minute mark of the first period.

The Petes tied it two minutes later, but the 67's seemed to take control of things soon after, building a 3-1 lead in the second period on goals by Tyler Toffoli and Andrew Merritt, his first of the season.

At the 16-minute mark, though, Nesbitt was assessed a double-minor for an accidental high-stick. Matt Puempel and Adam Sedlak scored 21 seconds apart for the Petes, and the 67's never led again.

Jamie Doornbosch scored what appeared to be the game-winner seven minutes into the third period, after the 67's squandered a five-minute man advantage after Petes captain Zack Kassian was handed a five-minute major for slew-footing Nesbitt.

However, Martindale, who played perhaps his best game of the season, tied it with 5.3 seconds remaining, the result of hard work by Toffoli, and the 67's got their point.

"I felt like we were in full control at 3-1," Byrne said. "I felt it was some of our best hockey all year for, oh, about 36 minutes.

"But we knew their power play was good, and, once you have to kill five and six (penalties), you're going to get into trouble.

"You are asking the same guys to do a lot.

"But the guys played hard. It was an exciting game. Every play seemed like a big deal (to the young students)."

The 67's don't play again at the Urdandale Centre until Nov. 13 against the Sarnia Sting.

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Players fed off the unbridled enthusiasm of the school children who took in Monday's unique morning start for the Ottawa 67's game against the Petes.

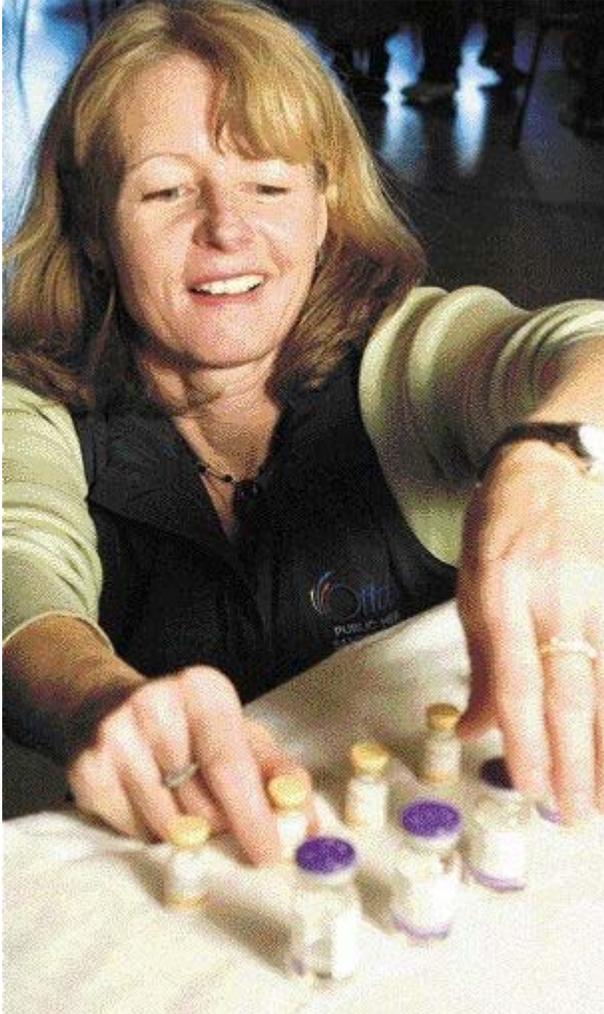
Photograph by: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen, The Ottawa Citizen



On the front lines

Times have changed since nurse Betty-Ann Hamilton last gave a needle, but she's happy to do her part to get the H1N1 vaccination shots done. Maria Cook explains.

BY MARIA COOK, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:08 AM



Betty Ann Hamilton admits the job can be a strain. 'When you get home, you're so wired,' she says. 'Then you calm down, think about the day, how to make it better, how to make people go through faster, but also safer.'

Photograph by: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen, The Ottawa Citizen

Kids are the hardest, even for a seasoned nurse like Betty-Ann Hamilton.

"They're crying and squirming and going, 'No! No!' It upsets all of us. You know it's good, but it's going to hurt them. It's good, but it's bad."

Hamilton, 52, is an Ottawa public health nurse. She is part of the team at the City of Ottawa flu clinic in Fred Barrett Arena in Gloucester.

Here, the H1N1 vaccines are administered in a noisy and crowded second-floor reception room overlooking the ice rink.

Speaking over the shrieks of children, Hamilton chokes up recalling her toughest case so far.

"I had a mum in here breastfeeding her baby. She was crying because she was worried she was making the wrong decision. She was afraid because it was (her) first baby and you want everything to be perfect for your first baby.

"It really touched me because I'm a mum, too."

The first day the clinic opened, on Monday, Oct. 26, was "very emotional," she recalls.

"It was upsetting the first day, with all the crowds. You turn them away and they've been waiting. We're upset because we can't help them. We're so busy. We're trying our best and so many people were angry and frustrated."

Is the job a strain? "Big time," she says.

On the drive home, Hamilton searches the radio for relaxing music.

"You need to disengage. When you get home, you're so wired, you can't sleep for a while. Then you calm down, think about the day, how to make it better, how to make people go through faster, but also safer."

A University of Ottawa graduate and the daughter of a nurse, Hamilton's real job is managing fitness programs for seniors.

For example, she's the go-to person for 27 volunteers at The Friendly Corner at St. Laurent Shopping Centre, which offers mallwalking, strength training and health talks for older people.

The last time Hamilton gave an injection was 29 years ago in 1980, when she worked at the former Ottawa Civic Hospital. "It's something you don't forget, but some of the steps get fine-tuned."

"When I learned, you always aspirate (the syringe). Now we don't. That's a big change for me."

To prepare, she observed Grade 7 immunization clinics last week and also took online training.

"This is what nurses in public health are good at," says Hamilton.

"We're good with people. We know we're making a difference and people have confidence in us. They know we're doing this for all the right reasons.

"Even though there's a lot of stuff out in the media, we know our facts are based in research and best practice and all of that makes us feel good.

"And people want it. They're here because they want it and we're giving them what they want, so that feels really good."

On Monday, she wore three caps; she was back-up supervisor and a float nurse, ready to jump in when any of the 15 nurses giving immunizations went on break.

She was also an assessor; answering questions about a person's suitability to receive the shot that day.

There's a staff meeting, supplies to order and to unpack and questions coming from all directions. "It goes fast."

Clinic supervisor Lorette Dupuis says Hamilton is well-suited to the pressure-cooker job. "She's calm. She's got experience. She's got a great personality and kids of her own; she can relate to a mum's point of view."

The nurses giving shots sit at long tables; each has a computer and a tray containing alcohol, band-aids, cotton balls, syringes, tissues and hand sanitizer. There are also pink disposal boxes for sharps, and stuffed toys.

The vaccine arrives in coolers every hour. It must be maintained at between 2C and 8C and is good for 24 hours. An assistant gets it ready for the nurses, who pick it up from a table and load their own syringes.

Each nurse vaccinates about 15 people an hour.

"You have to spend a bit of time talking about what to expect and there's so much information and a bit of confusion, so that's why it takes that amount of time," Hamilton says.

Nurses go over the filled-out questionnaire, talk to the patient about risk factors and try to confirm that they are appropriate candidates. They cleanse the left shoulder in anyone over a year old (in babies it's the left thigh).

"The actual injection part takes seconds, in and out," says Hamilton.

The sign of a great injection is when the person says, "Oh, you already done?" she says with a laugh.

Lines form at 4 a.m. and the arena opens at 6 a.m. Hamilton sees daily improvements in the system: "It's so much better since we've had Parks and Recreation step in to control the crowd. It's really been a City of Ottawa team effort.

"People come in and they're given a wristband. They go up to information. The Parks and Rec people screen them. They tell people what time to come back.

"You know what it's like when you're waiting and you have children and you're anxious and tempers are a little bit short. But for the most part, now that people are clear on what time to come back, it's way better.

"It's been really nice because we've had people here in lineups and they see how busy we are and they want to help. They come up to us after and say, 'Listen, I'm a nurse. Can I help?' or 'I can volunteer.'"

The greatest pleasure is the teamwork. "We're united in one goal to get these people through. Everybody's working together.

"We have people coming up saying 'Thanks very much. You're doing a good job.' That means a lot."

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Online Coverage

Read factsheets, Q&As and the latest info, and find the latest guide to H1N1 flu vaccine clinics

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Gatineau H1N1 victim had prior health problems

Unnamed woman, 26, didn't receive flu shot

BY TONY SPEARS, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 3, 2009 5:08 AM

A 26-year-old Gatineau woman died of H1N1 Saturday, becoming the first flu-related fatality in the Outaouais in the second wave of the pandemic.

The woman suffered from chronic health problems, said Céline Jacob, a spokeswoman for Outaouais health and social services.

The woman had not received a flu shot, Jacob said. She died in a medical facility.

No additional information on the woman's medical history was available. Her name was not released.

Jacob said there were 221 confirmed H1N1 cases in the Outaouais as of Friday, but only a handful of patients are being treated in hospital.

More vaccination clinics are to open in the coming days but Outaouais citizens who do not fall into any of the priority groups could wait weeks before they are eligible for flu shots.

The two Gatineau clinics remain reserved for women more than 20 weeks' pregnant, children aged six months to five years, and people who live with children who are less than six months old. On Nov. 9, a new clinic will open at Place Cartier for pregnant women, young children and their caregivers, health workers and people under 65 with chronic health conditions.

Clinics in the Gatineau, des Collines and Vallée-de-la-Gatineau regions have yet to specify when they will open to the general public.

In the Pontiac region, the public will be eligible for vaccinations as of Nov. 9 at clinics in Shawville, Campbell's Bay, Chapeau, Fort Coulonge, Rapides-des-Joachims and Quyon.

The Shawville clinic (516 Main Road) is open Wednesdays with one Saturday clinic to run on Nov. 28 only; the Campbell's Bay clinic (2 Secord Road) is open Mondays; the Chapeau clinic (64 Pembroke Road) is open Fridays; the Fort-Coulonge clinic (525 Baume Road) is open Tuesdays, with one Saturday clinic to run on Nov. 28; the Rapides-des-Joachims clinic (48 de l'Église Road) is open only on Nov. 9, and the Quyon clinic (1 Ferry Road) is open Thursdays.

All clinics open at 10 a.m.

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Extra flu vigilance put in play

By JON WILLING

Last Updated: 3rd November 2009, 3:45am

No one needs to tell owners of children's attractions about the importance of blasting bacteria, especially in the midst of a pandemic.

Damian Dee, a manager at Midway Family Fun Park, said the east-end children's park has always been vigilant in cleaning its attractions and facilities, but now it's assigning a staffer to constantly disinfect hard surfaces because of the swine flu pandemic.

"We're taking all the preventions possible," Dee said yesterday.

A children's park can be a magnet for bacteria. The park's cleaning regimen includes sanitizing balls in the ball pit with a special machine that cleans each of the orbs with ultraviolet light. Tokens and "fun cards" are also incubated for seven days to eliminate bacteria, Dee said.

HAND-WASHING

Dee said party hostesses also making sure everyone washes their hands before eating. Additional hand sanitizers have been installed in the building.

Midway has only experienced a few rescheduled parties since the second wave of swine flu began to be felt in the city, he said.

Over at Cosmic Adventures on Ogilvie Rd., CEO Chris Beaulne said staff haven't had any cancellations of birthday parties since the outbreak.

Swine flu has prompted staff to be more aware of cleaning everything, from work stations to door handles.

"We've always been known as quite a clean facility," Beaulne said. "It's been something that we're extremely anal about."

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