

Just the facts: an H1N1 Timeline

April 23, 2009

New strain of flu virus surfaces in Mexico

May 2009

The United States and U.K. place order for vaccine.

July 7, 2009

WHO recommends massive vaccine response, with pregnant women being given a non- adjuvanted version of the shot.

July 24, 2009

Novartis had already secured orders for H1N1 vaccines amid discussions with more than 35 governments, including signed contracts with the United States, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

August 6, 2009

Canada orders vaccine, three months after the United States places its first order.

September 4, 2009

Canada finally orders unadjuvanted version of the vaccine for pregnant women -- 2 months after WHO recommendation.

October 5, 2009

CTV reports that while US vaccinations are already underway, testing on the Canadian vaccine hasn't even started.

October 8, 2009

Prime Minister Stephen Harper tells the HoC, "The immediate priority is seasonal flu vaccination"

October 20, 2009

Minister Aglukkaq tells the HoC, "...we are on schedule with the vaccine rollout. As the Chief Public Health Officer has stated, the vaccine will be widely available to all Canadians in early November."

October 26, 2009

Canada begins vaccination, weeks after China (September 21), Australia (September 30), the United States (October 5) and Sweden (October 12). Clinics experience massive lineups, shortages, and delays. Public health officials overwhelmed in many regions, with patients being turned away.

October 29, 2009

Tony Clement tells the HOC, "There has been no delay," and that by the following week, 9 million doses will have been made available for Canadians.

October 29, 2009

GSK informs government the vaccine deliveries will be cut dramatically in order to accommodate the government's order for production of the non-adjuvanted version for pregnant women. Taken by surprise, provincial health authorities announce that vaccine will not be available to general population, as regions ration scarce supply of the vaccine.

November 2, 2009

The government revises its early November vaccination goal to Christmas, after experts predict the flu season will have peaked.

November 4, 2009

The Auditor General slams the Harper government's emergency response plan for crises like the H1N1 pandemic. A Liberal motion passed by the HoC calls for the allocation of \$400 million in pandemic response funding to aid vaccine delivery to the provinces, plus emergency planning support and diversion of partisan Economic Action Plan advertising funding to a H1N1 awareness campaign.

November 5, 2009

Only 6.5 million doses are in circulation, and less than three million have been delivered to Canadians.

November 9, 2009

Almost all cases of the flu being diagnosed are H1N1, not seasonal flu. Ontario's former chief medical officer of health, Dr. Richard Schabas says if the government "had made the bold and courageous decision to follow the evidence and abandon the seasonal flu vaccine, we could have had our H1N1 vaccine about six weeks earlier."