



Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Region Chair Bill Fisch Accelerate Markham Assessment Centre

MARKHAM, ON- November 11, 2009 -- Today York Region opened its second Community Flu Assessment Centre for the region, ahead of schedule, at 9255 Woodbine Avenue in Markham. Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti worked with York Region Chair Bill Fisch to determine a suitable location for the Markham Flu Assessment Centre and to accelerate the original timetable.

“The provision of H1N1 services continues to be a top priority for Markham and York Region. I inspected the recommended site for Markham’s Assessment Centre, and felt strongly there were better sites available to serve our residents,” said Mayor Scarpitti. “I appreciate Region staff considering the alternative site I suggested to better meet the needs of our residents. I’m pleased this site is now in place.”

Mayor Scarpitti and Chair Bill Fisch also played a key role in establishing Markham’s H1N1 Immunization Centre for York Region Community and Health Services, and ensuring it was opened quickly. Markham’s H1N1 vaccination centre has served over 5000 residents since opening November 4. Mayor Scarpitti extended thanks to Markham staff for the highly successful logistical and organization support provided at the immunization centre, and to public health professionals at the centre for their outstanding service.

York Region Chair Bill Fisch said, “I’m extremely proud of the efforts of Region and municipal staff, and public health officials to put H1N1 services in place so quickly. The establishment of the two flu assessment centres for Vaughan and Markham is further evidence of our commitment to the meeting the needs of the community.”

Community Flu Assessment Centres are the responsibility of local public health units during a pandemic influenza outbreak. They are intended to alleviate pressures from local hospitals, allowing emergency rooms to focus on treating people who are critically ill or have life-threatening illnesses or injuries. The Centres also provide residents who are suffering from influenza another option for assessment and treatment.

Most people with the flu will be able to manage their symptoms at home, but some may need further assessment by a health care provider. Symptoms of the flu include the acute onset of fever (over 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius) and a cough combined with a sore throat, muscle aches and/or joint pain and weakness.

If you have concerns about symptoms, you should contact your family physician or call **Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000**, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents who do not have a family doctor, or are unable to get an appointment can attend the York Region Community Flu Assessment Centre

Location	Times
9255 Woodbine Avenue Town of Markham - Map	Seven days a week starting Wednesday, November 11 Monday to Friday 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Markham, a municipality of almost 300,000 residents centrally located in the Greater Toronto Area, is Canada’s most diverse community and home to many of Canada’s leading life science and technology businesses. It is renowned for a rich heritage, vibrant neighbourhoods, and leadership on the environment and urban design.

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