

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

PUBLIC HEALTH, VACCINE EXPERTS AND PARENTS AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS ON SEASONAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION

25 October 2019, Ottawa, ON — Several public health professionals and vaccination experts, as well as concerned parents, from across Canada are available to speak with media as of today.

On the heels of another annual influenza season, Immunize Canada would like to remind Canadians to get immunized since it is the best way to lower their risk of influenza infection. “Influenza immunization is a broad-reaching public health measure we have to prevent influenza-associated complications and hospitalization for everyone over six months of age, but particularly for adults over 65, pregnant women, and children under the age of two. There is no question that they benefit from influenza immunization, and that can mean dramatically improved outcomes for millions of Canadians,” said Dr. Shelly McNeil, Immunize Canada Chair and infectious disease expert.

“In addition, people with compromised immune systems are most at risk of serious illness from the spread of influenza, and benefit from the immunization of others,” said Dr. Anne Pham-Huy, Immunize Canada Vice-Chair and pediatric infectious disease physician. Mallory Olsheski is the mother of such a child. “At the age of five months, my son underwent a heart transplant that saved his life,” said Olsheski. “It means he must receive immune system-suppressing medication to prevent his body from rejecting his heart. I have to hope and trust that others are immunized against influenza so that my immune-compromised son can stay healthy.”

“Misinformation about influenza immunization on social media and the Internet threatens the widespread success of immunization programs, placing people’s health at risk,” said Ms. Jill Promoli, influenza immunization advocate and mother of Jude who died in May 2016 at the age of two due to influenza.

“When you get immunized for influenza, your action to prevent the spread of influenza might not seem like a big deal, but you are helping others around you. Influenza immunization isn’t just for you,” said Ms. Promoli.

To schedule an interview with a vaccination expert, Ms. Olsheski, or Ms. Promoli, please contact:

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