



British Columbia
Pharmacy Association

November 6, 2009

Dr. Perry Kendall
Chief Medical Officer
Via email: perry.kendall@gov.bc.ca

Dear Dr. ^{Perry}Kendall,

I wish to write on behalf of my Association's members, with regard to the current situation regarding the H1N1 vaccine and prioritization.

Myself and the members are acutely aware of the challenges you currently face in prioritizing this vaccine, particularly in light of recent shortages and soaring demand. We sincerely appreciate your work and value the relationship of mutual respect and co-operation that has developed between the BC Government and pharmacy community.

As you are no doubt aware, our members play a crucial role, particularly during the current challenges presented by the H1N1 pandemic. Whether it is through the dispensation of Tamiflu, or administration of the H1N1 vaccine, pharmacists provide vital front-line patient care which can have a tremendous impact on easing pressures within the BC health care system.

In recent weeks, many of our members have also embraced the opportunity to expand their scope of practice by training to administer injections. More than 400 pharmacists have signed up to receive the BC Pharmacy Association's training programme and over 140 have received accreditation from the College of Pharmacists of BC.

Having worked so closely with Government and College of Pharmacists in order to enhance patient care in this way, I feel it only right to request that you consider the prioritization of pharmacists with regard to receiving the H1N1 vaccine. This applies to the members themselves being vaccinated, as well as them receiving supplies in order to administer the vaccine to their patients – many pharmacies already have long waiting lists.

Our aim as an Association is to continue to provide support and high quality patient care during this challenging time. I'm sure you will understand that in order to do this, we ask that our pharmacists are given due consideration as key health care workers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marnie".

Marnie Mitchell
CEO