

# **Combating Public Health Threats in North America**

## **Canada and Alberta and the Pandemic Influenza**

# General Expectations and Information

- Up to 70% of the Canadian population could be infected
- 35% could become clinically ill (miss work)
- Possibility of 25% of a businesses employees could miss work in peak two weeks of influenza

# Estimated Impacts of a Canadian Pandemic

- 11,000 – 58,000 deaths
- 34,000 – 138,000 hospitalized
- 2 – 5 million people will seek outpatient care
- 4.5 – 10.6 million clinically ill (Canadian population = 33 million)

# World Health Organization Pandemic Periods

- Interpandemic Period
  - Outbreaks in birds/animals
- Pandemic Alert Period
  - Human outbreaks of a new strain
- Pandemic Period
  - Human – Human transmission

# Alberta Vaccine Program

- An October 1, 2009 announcement made that October 13 a two part immunization program will begin.
- Begin with seasonal immunization aimed at high risk groups
- Seniors, pregnant women, children (6 months to 23 months), and other high risk patients will receive immunization at clinics
- Seasonal influenza immunization will cease once H1N1 becomes available in November
- Vaccines will be delivered in mass immunization clinics