



## Media Release

### Flu Related Deaths in the area

February 9, 2018: Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph can confirm one influenza-related death and one suspected influenza-related death of elementary school children in the region.

“Our sympathies are with the families at this time,” said Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. “Influenza is a serious respiratory infection and the flu season is not over. In the last week we have seen the highest number of new cases as well as the highest school absenteeism this season. Protect yourself and your family with the flu shot now. A recent Canadian study estimates that the vaccine is 55% effective in protecting against the Influenza B virus circulating in Southwestern Ontario.”

Public Health is encouraging people to visit their local pharmacy or health care provider to get the flu shot. Public Health is also extending clinic hours this weekend to encourage more families to get the flu shot.

Guelph	Friday	1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fergus	Friday	2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Orangeville	Friday	2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	Saturday	10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Members of the community can call to get more information about the flu and getting the flu shot at 1-800-265-7293. Phone lines will be open Friday till 7 p.m. and Saturday until 7 p.m.

#### Media Contact:

Chuck Ferguson, Manager of Communications  
1-800-265-7293 ext. 4374  
[chuck.ferguson@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:chuck.ferguson@wdgpublichealth.ca)