

Canadian H1N1 flu deaths escalate despite leading global vaccination program

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Dallas, Texas (CaymanMama.com) — As the H1N1 flu continues to take its toll on people all over the world, the swine flu strand has taken the lives of more people in Canada over the past week than any other week this year, according to health officials.

However, Canada's vaccination program was going so well that the country may reach its peak sooner than projected.

Thirty-seven people have died as a result of the H1N1 strand between November 12-17, bringing Canada's death toll to 198, out of a population of 34 million.

"Rather than seeing thousands of deaths we've been fortunate to have people doing what they need to do (to avoid the flu)," Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones said. "I think we're in a relatively good position, but a pandemic is always full of surprises."

Canadian health officials thought the flu would peak in December, but Butler-Jones said the country's vaccination program may change the peak so that it comes earlier.

Approximately 20 percent of Canadians have now been immunized, Butler-Jones said,

These numbers make Canada the worldwide leader in terms of the percentage of the population that has been vaccinated, said Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

According to Reuters, "By the end of this week, the federal government will have delivered 10 million doses of the vaccine to the country's 13 provinces and territories, she said."

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