



# **A Northern Territory's Response to H1N1**

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Cross Border Workshop

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# Overview

Yukon and its Public Health structure

Chief Challenges

Key Features and Successes

Lessons Learned

# Yukon at a Glance

- Population 34,000
- 480,000 sq km (size of Spain)
- 25% First Nation
- 2/3 population in Whitehorse
- Communities range <100 to 1500

# Public Health Structure

- CMOH advisory role
- Community Health Programs
  - **Yukon Communicable Disease Control**
- Community Nursing: health services including public health delivery
- Communications
- Whitehorse: independent physician services

# Challenges: the perils of Small

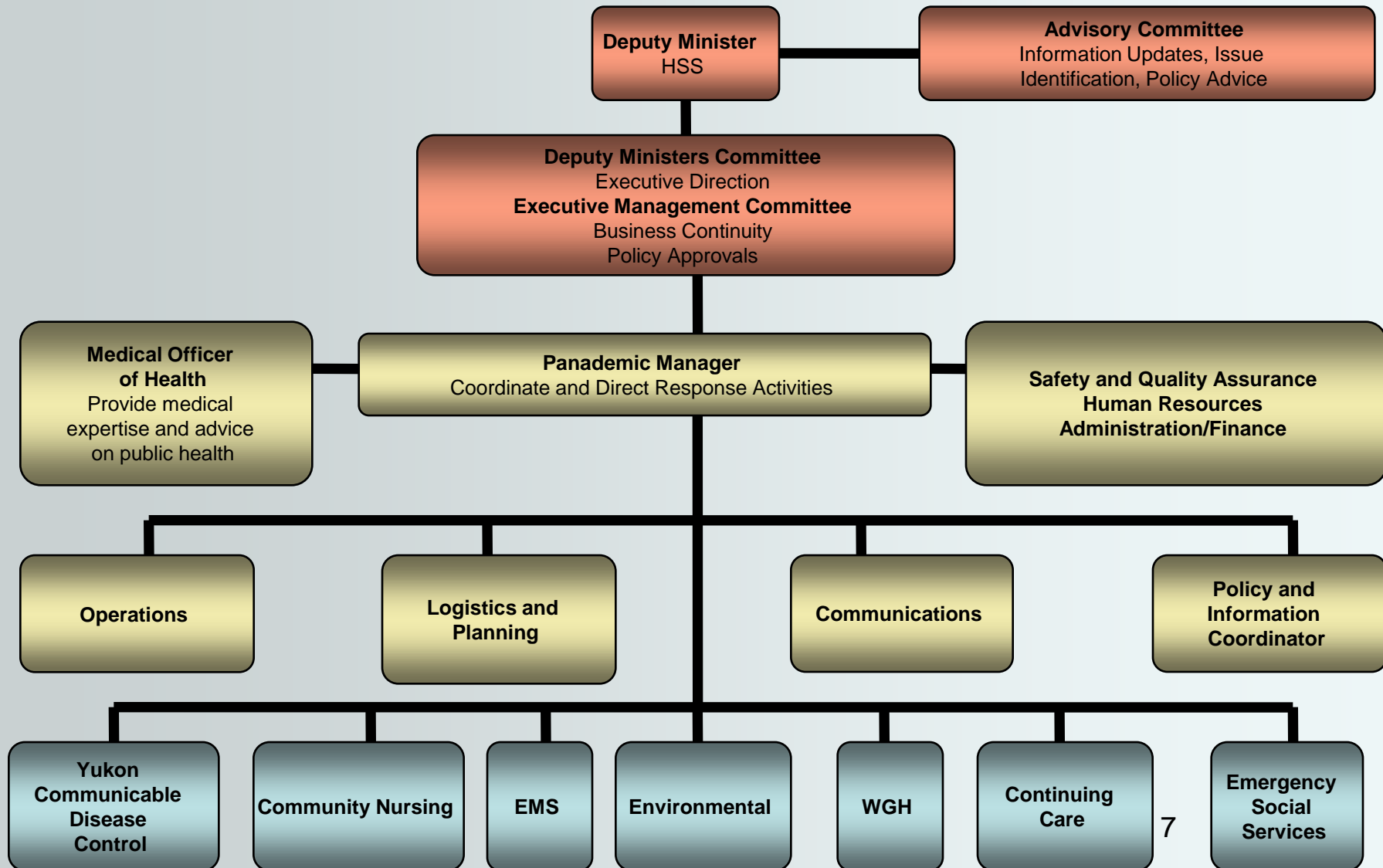
- Limited personnel and capacity:  
diversion from other duties
- First Nations susceptibility
- Lack of decision making structure
- More dependent on Outside  
expertise

# Support for First Nations

- First Nation governments
- Liaise with FN Leadership
- Provide support to FN Health Departments
- Communication challenges
- FN advisory committee
- Community preparation tours

# Health and Social Services Panademic Management Structure

Obtained from Pandemic Health Response Plan Oct 2009 pg.16



# Pandemic Communications

- PUBLIC
  - Single voice
  - Primed for evolving messages
  - Supportive local media
- HEALTH PROVIDERS
  - Guidelines often “on our own”
  - Dealing with change



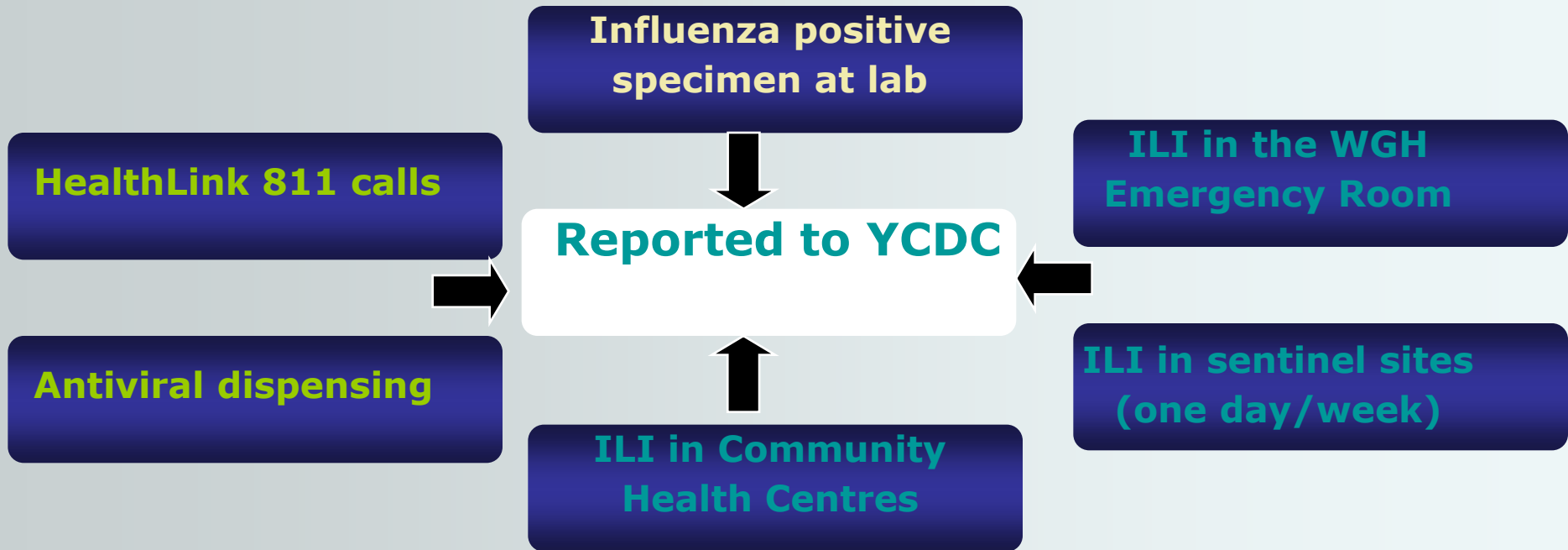
# Canadian Public Health Service

- Surveillance system set-up
- Complete datasets
- Estimating the prevalence of pH1N1 (5% ILI)
- Estimating effect of vaccine
- 1<sup>st</sup> 100 cases analysis

• Emily Schleihauf, Canadian Public Health Service, December 2009

# Influenza surveillance in Yukon: pH1N1 pandemic... and beyond

Emily Schleichauf, Canadian Public Health Service, December 2009



# Immunization - North

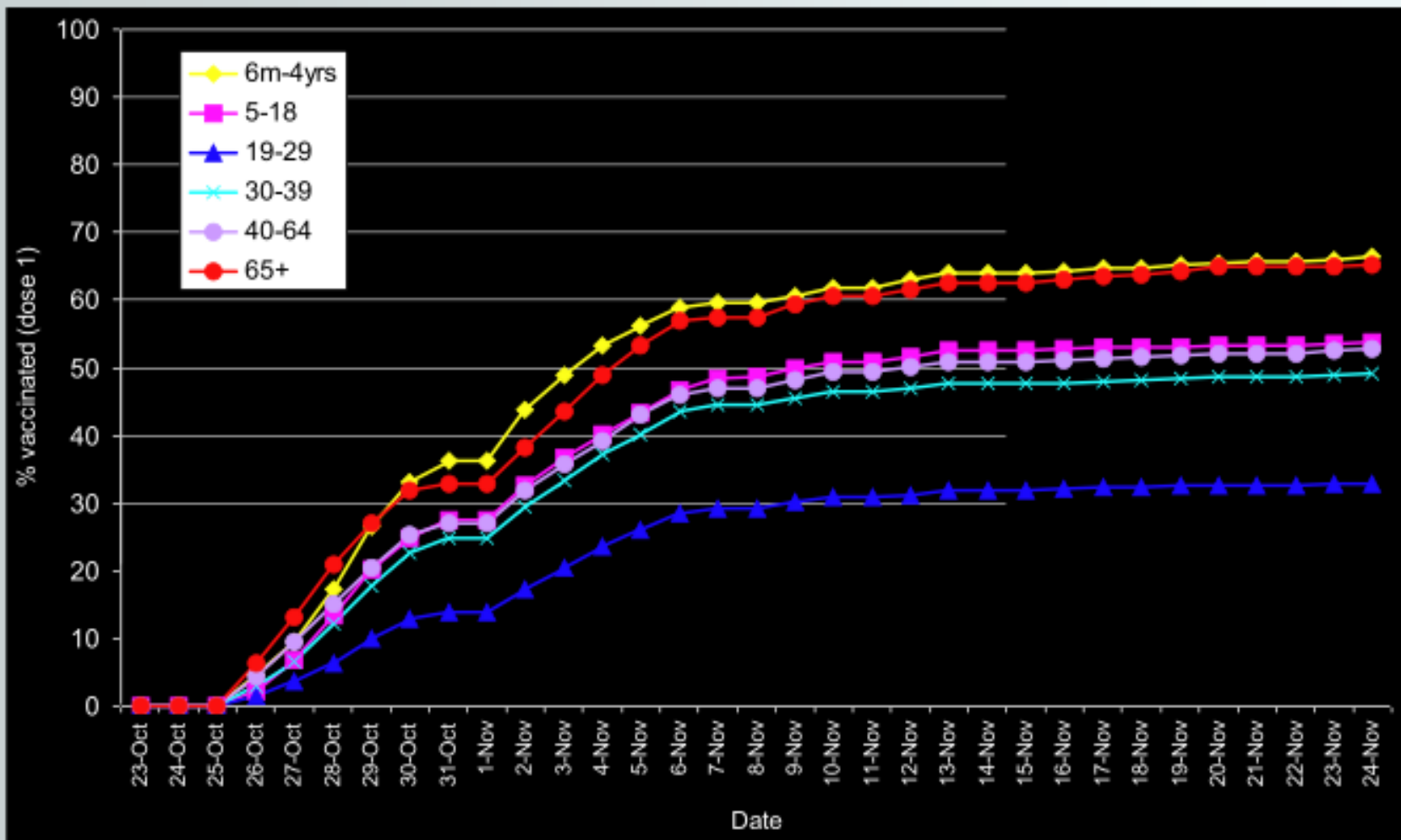
- Vaccine supply not staggered
- No prioritization
- Greater initial uptake
- Live data entry
- Co-administration of vaccines

# Whitehorse Mass Vaccination

- 50% of city immunized in one facility
- Free Passes to Rec Centre

# Immunization by age group

Emily Schleihauf, Canadian Public Health Service, December 2009



# Lessons Learned

- Being small is great but....
- Pandemic 101:
  - Communication: Public/Health pro's
  - Decision making structure
  - Inclusive of FN governments
  - Surveillance
  - Immunization

# Acknowledgements

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