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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **H1N1 Pressure Falling**

Deep River, ON, November 20, 2009- At this past week's November Board Meeting, Lianne Wheeler, Chief Nursing Officer at Deep River and District, advised the Board that things had returned to a more normal pace at the Hospital Emergency Department as a result of a marked decline in patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms.

"The special assessment and triage process that we put in place for these patients was very effective in helping us deal with the higher patient volumes in a safe and efficient manner", said Lianne. "We are pleased that the initial pandemic scare appears to be lessening and are hopeful that, with the increased availability of vaccines, that the worst of H1N1 is behind us".

In other business, the Board approved a proposed 2010-11 budget strategy based primarily on increasing revenue generation activities to offset the anticipated shortfall in government funding and thus avoiding the need for service or staff reductions. The Board also approved a renovation project that would significantly update the front entrance to the Hospital, enable a much-needed upgrade to the in-patient and out-patient laboratory department, and provide increased segregation of waiting areas for healthy and not-so-healthy clients awaiting Hospital services. The Board was provided with an update on the Hospital's readiness for the upcoming visit and operational review by external evaluators from Accreditation Canada. The meeting closed with a report by the Board Chair and the CEO on their attendance at the recent annual Ontario Hospital Association Conference in Toronto.

The next Board meeting is scheduled at the Hospital on Wednesday December 16, 2009