Parents and educators reported that AllerGen’s public forum on seasonal asthma spikes delivered “excellent” information from a “vast array” of expert speakers.

Thank you to our expert speakers and all who attended the public forum Preventing children’s asthma spikes: What parents, teachers and the public need to know, held on November 29, 2012 at the Halton Regional Centre.

RESEARCH SUMMARY
Understanding the September asthma epidemic
Research has shown that 20-25% of asthma attacks requiring hospitalizations and physician visits in school-age children occur in September. Emergency room visits during this time can take children out of the classroom at critical points in the school year, cause family members to miss work, and place significant pressure on the healthcare system.

Why causes the September asthma spike? What can we do to prevent it?
Panellist Dr. Malcolm Sears co-authored the study.
Click here to read a summary of the research findings.

Tips for managing asthma and allergies this spring
Depending on the season, asthma symptoms can vary due to changing environmental triggers such as mold or pollen. About 75% of people with asthma also suffer from allergies, making spring a challenging season for those who suffer from allergic asthma or seasonal allergies.

The Asthma Society of Canada offers season-specific tips for managing asthma and allergies. Get more information at www.4seasonsofasthma.ca/spring_intro.php

Resources for preventing seasonal asthma spikes
Ontario Lung Association: http://www.onlung.ca/septspike
Certified Respiratory Educators are available by phone 1-888-344-LUNG or email info@on.lung.ca to for any questions regarding asthma and the seasonal asthma spike.

Asthma Society of Canada: http://www.asthma.ca/adults/control/septemberPeak.php
Information for teachers, caregivers and children on the September asthma peak. Resources are also available for creating an Asthma Plan of Action and how to manage symptoms

Event Photos
Expert panelists provide information regarding the September asthma spike.
Julia Borodinovic discusses the Public Health School Asthma Program (Halton).
During the break, audience members mingle and review resources.
Dr. Judah Denburg moderates discussions & questions at the forum.

Follow us on Twitter @AllerGen_NCE
Website: www.allergen-nce.ca
Thank you to our partners for their support in this event!

We would like to acknowledge the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity for their support.

For questions, comments, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact kimwright@allergen-nce.ca

March 2013

Preventing children’s seasonal asthma spikes: What parents, teachers and the public need to know

Dr. Malcolm Sears, professor at McMaster University and director of the CHILD Study, describes the science behind the September asthma spike.

Do you have an idea for a future public forum? Let us know!
Contact: kimwright@allergen-nce.ca

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