



Memo to Physicians, Nurses and Pharmacists RE: Influenza Vaccines

To: Physicians
Pharmacists authorized to provide influenza vaccine to NLPDP recipients
Nurse Practitioners, Regional Nurses

From: Dr. David Allison, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: October 2, 2017

Re: **Publicly-funded Seasonal Influenza Vaccine 2017 - 2018**

Plans are now well underway for the annual seasonal influenza immunization program. Vaccine for the publically funded program will soon be available for distribution to community based physician's offices, community health nursing clinics, pharmacies, health facilities and Regional Health Authority (RHA) staff health offices.

Physicians and pharmacists may order publicly-funded vaccine through the regional public health offices as directed in this memo.

Pharmacist's scope of practice includes administration of intranasal vaccine to persons 2 years of age and older and injections to persons 5 years of age and older. Publically funded vaccine will be provided to pharmacists to administer to beneficiaries of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) only. If pharmacists choose to provide influenza vaccine to other patients they will need to secure a supply of influenza vaccine for which patients may be charged a fee set by the pharmacy.

Recommended Recipients for Seasonal Influenza Immunization

The publically funded seasonal influenza vaccine program provides the vaccine free of charge to **all individuals 6 months of age and older**. Emphasis should be placed on immunizing those who are at increased risk for complications from influenza, and individuals such as health care providers capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk.

Please refer to the appropriate influenza vaccine product monographs to note product-specific age indications, precautions and contraindications. Product monographs must be reviewed prior to administering any vaccine.

Vaccine Products for 2017-18

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIV)

1. **Fluzone**, an inactivated vaccine, is the main product supplied by the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) and is available in multi-dose vials, 10 doses per vial. Administered by IM injection for all persons aged six months and older.

Fluzone Product monograph:

http://www.sanofipasteur.ca/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/pictures/Fluzone_QIV_E_2017.pdf
DIN/Pharmacy rule #02432730 – Fluzone Quad

2. **FluMist**, a live attenuated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (LAIV) is administered by intranasal spray in both nostrils. **It is NOT for injection**. The product can be used for persons aged 2-59 years. Note: this product **should not** be given to persons with severe asthma. Healthcare workers who may care for immunocompromised patients should not be given this live vaccine. Egg allergy is no longer a contraindication for FluMist.

FluMist Product Monograph

<https://www.astrazeneca.ca/content/dam/az-ca/downloads/productinformation/flumist-qlaiv-product-monograph-en.pdf>

DIN/Pharmacy rule #02426544 – Flumist Quad

Adjuvanted Trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) used for 2017-18

3. **Fluad**, an adjuvanted inactivated vaccine, will be offered only to residents of Long Term Care and Personal Care homes who are 65 years of age and older.

Fluad Product monograph:

https://www.novartis.ca/sites/www.novartis.ca/files/fluad_scrip_e%202016.pdf

DIN/Pharmacy rule # 02362384

Administration of Influenza Vaccine to Egg Allergic Individuals:

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has concluded that egg allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using inactivated TIV or QIV, or LAIV without prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose, irrespective of a past severe reaction to egg and without any particular consideration, including immunization setting.

Immunization of Children

Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age, receiving influenza vaccine for the first time, are recommended to receive 2 doses of vaccine spaced at least 4 weeks apart.

Adverse Events following Immunization

All Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) are to be reported to the Regional Medical Officer of Health. For details please refer to:
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/section_1_general_considerations_immunizations.pdf

AEFI form:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/raefi-dmcisi-eng.pdf>

Vaccine Ordering Process

- The distribution and supply of vaccine will be monitored very closely through the Regional Health Authority (RHA). The amount of vaccine sent may not always be the full amount you have ordered. This will be dependent upon national supply and demand and measures in place to reduce wastage. It is imperative that you not overstock vaccine which could lead to vaccine wastage.
- Please contact Communicable Disease Control staff in the following areas to arrange for an order of influenza vaccine:

EASTERN HEALTH		
Telephone: 752-3918 Email: CDCProgram@easternhealth.ca	Holyrood Vaccine Depot Telephone: 229-1572 Fax: 229-1589	Mount Pearl Square Telephone: 752-4886 Fax: 752-4873
CENTRAL HEALTH		
Telephone: 651-6234 Fax: 256-4977		
WESTERN HEALTH		
Telephone: 637-500 Ext 5417 Fax: 637-5160		
LABRADOR GRENFELL HEALTH		
Telephone: 454-0375 Fax: 454-4978		

- Influenza vaccine must be ordered using the **Influenza Vaccine Order Form (Appendix A)** or a regional **Influenza Vaccine Order Form** supplied to you. Please note that if you have not submitted your tally form for 2016-17 your influenza vaccine order will not be filled. Once the tallies have been received the order will be filled.
- Fax the order form to the Communicable Disease Control Office in your region (as per contact information above). Contact them to make arrangements for pick/up delivery of the influenza vaccine.
- Vaccine temperature must be maintained between 2°C to 8°C at all times. You will require insulated coolers and sufficient supply of ice packs when picking up vaccine. Vaccine will not be released without proper cooling containers for transportation to your clinic.

Record of Recipients of Influenza Vaccine 2017-2018 Tally Form (Appendix B)

- The Tally Form is a tool which is used by RHAs and the DHCS to monitor uptake and distribution of influenza vaccine. Please use form in Appendix B or one supplied to you by your regional contacts in CDC.
- The Tally Form **must** be submitted:
 - When requesting additional doses of vaccine; and
 - At the end of **each month** during the time that immunization is offered; and
 - Following administration of all doses of vaccine by April 1, 2018.
- All unused, partially used and expired vaccine must be accounted for and reported to the vaccine depot using the Biologics Preparation Return Form.

Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Monitoring

- All vaccine must be stored in the center of the refrigerator between **2 – 8°C**. Vaccine viability may be compromised if not stored properly. Please review the vaccine storage and handling guidelines and the product monograph supplied with the vaccine for additional information. Report all cold chain breaks (when the vaccine is exposed to less than 2°C or above 8°C) to regional Communicable Disease Control staff for further direction before using the exposed vaccine.

For more detail please refer to the NL Immunization manual:

http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/im_section7_biological_products.pdf

Thank you,



David Allison MD, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health

**Influenza immunization is recommended for all individuals
6 months of age and older and particularly
for these high risk groups:**

People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization:

- **All pregnant women.**
- Adults and children with the following chronic health conditions:
 - cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis & asthma);
 - diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases;
 - cancer, immune compromising conditions (due to underlying disease and/or therapy);
 - renal disease;
 - anemia or hemoglobinopathy;
 - neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions;
 - morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40);
 - children and adolescents (age 6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment for long periods with acetylsalicylic acid, because of the potential increase of Reye's syndrome associated with influenza.
- People of any age who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities.
- People ≥ 60 years of age. (NL policy decision)
- All children 6 to 59 months of age (< 5 years of age).
- Aboriginal Peoples

People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk

- Health care and other care providers in facilities and community settings who, through their activities, are capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk of influenza complications.
- Household contacts (adults and children) of individuals at high risk of influenza-related complications (whether or not the individual at high risk has been immunized):
 - household contacts of individuals at high risk, as listed in the section above;
 - household contacts of infants < 6 months of age as these infants are at high risk of complications from influenza but cannot receive influenza vaccine; and
 - members of a household expecting a newborn during the influenza season.
- Those providing regular child care to children ≤ 59 months of age, whether in or out of the home.
- Those who provide services within closed or relatively closed settings to persons at high risk (e.g., crew on a ship).

Others

- People who provide essential community services.
- People in direct contact during culling operations with poultry infected with avian influenza

References & Resources:

Literature:

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2017-18:*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2017-2018.html>

Department of Health & Community Services Provincial Website:

http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/infoforpros_edu.html

Additional information

1. Influenza Vaccine Order Form 2017-18 (see Appendix A)
2. Record of Recipients of Influenza Vaccine Tally Form 2017-2018 (see Appendix B)
3. Biologics Preparation Return Report Form will be provided with vaccine orders also on the website: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/im_section7_biological_products.pdf

Appendix A: ORDER FORM

Physician/Pharmacist/NP: _____

Physician/Pharmacy/NP Address:

Physician/Pharmacy/NP Telephone: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Date Order Sent from RHA: _____

Pharmacy Board Registration Number (if applicable):: _____

Pharmacy: _____ NLPDP Billing Number (if applicable): _____

Product	Administration	Specific age group	Doses required	Doses sent from RHA
Flumist	Intranasal spray	For 2 to 59 years		
Fluzone	Injection	6 months and over		
Fluad	Injection	Personal Care Home residents 65 years plus		

EASTERN HEALTH		
Telephone: 752-3918 Email: CDCProgram@easternhealth.ca	Holyrood Vaccine Depot Telephone: 229-1572 Fax: 229-1589	Mount Pearl Square Telephone: 752-4886 Fax: 752-4873
CENTRAL HEALTH		
Telephone: 651-6234 Fax: 256-4977		
WESTERN HEALTH		
Telephone: 637-500 Ext 5417 Fax: 637-5160		
LABRADOR GRENFELL HEALTH		
Telephone: 454-0375 Fax: 454-4978		

Flu Vaccines Administered 2017-18

Appendix B:

Please Fax to: (RHA Fax # here) _____ at End of Each Month

Clinicians Name: _____

Clinic/Pharmacy: _____

Phone: _____

Month: _____										
Fluzone					FluMist					Fluad Personal Care Homes Only
6 mos - 4yrs	5-19 yrs	20-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	≥ 65 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-19 yrs	20-44 yrs	45-59 yrs	≥ 65 yrs	

This form can be photocopied in order to label one for each month. Please send end of month tally until end of April 2017

Work Sheet – do not send to CDC

Date	(Fluzone®) Injection					(FluMist®) Nasal Spray				Fluad ≥ 65 yrs
	6 mos - 4yrs	5-19 yrs	20-44 yrs	45-64 yrs	≥ 65 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-19 yrs	20-44 yrs	45-59 yrs	

Photocopy Form if needed