

PANL was advised late yesterday that after a department-wide meeting, the provincial Government's decision is to **HOLD the flu vaccination fee at \$13**. This decision was made despite numerous discussions with and proposals to government detailing the significant cost increases involved with pharmacies delivering the vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reasons for this decision included:

- A jurisdictional scan with NL already receiving one of the highest fees in the country for flu shots
- Government providing PPE to participating pharmacies
- The province's fiscal situation
- That the new universality was enough for pharmacies to make a profit

This is very frustrating and disappointing as discussions seemed to be heading in a positive direction.

Below are additional updates received this morning:

**PPE:**

NL is following the national guidance of vaccinators using masks and eye protection: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-influenza-vaccine-delivery-covid-19.html>. A provincial document with these recommendations will go out with the influenza vaccine package in the coming weeks. As already communicated, government will be providing PPE to pharmacies participating in the universal flu vaccination program so pharmacies will not have to purchase supplies.

**Consent form:**

Government is looking into electronic consent form. This is not complete yet, but government will inquire as to how pharmacists may also be able to use this.

**Post vaccination wait time:**

The change in post vaccination wait time is a NACI recommendation. So far, there is no change - it is still 15 minutes. We are hearing it could change to 5 minutes, but there has not been an announcement yet.

**Vaccine supply:**

There is no limited supply of vaccine this year. As always with influenza vaccine, there are priority groups who should receive the vaccine, the NACI statement can be found here <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2020-2021.html#III1>. The province is offering high-dose flu vaccine to LTC/PCH only. Government has advised that pharmacies will have adequate supply and information will be going out in the coming weeks.

The information above will be added to the [Flu Vaccination Program Resources page](#). Please be sure check the site regularly.

If you have any question, please contact [jcollingwood@panl.net](mailto:jcollingwood@panl.net)