

To: Pharmacists Offering Influenza Vaccine

From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: October 9, 2020

Re: Publicly Funded Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information for 2020-2021 Season

Plans are now underway for the annual seasonal influenza immunization program. Vaccine for the publicly funded program will soon be available for distribution to community-based physician's offices, community health nursing clinics, pharmacies, health facilities, regional health authority (RHA) staff health offices, and other healthcare professionals who are offering influenza immunizations this season.

Eligible healthcare professionals may order publicly funded vaccine through the regional public health offices as directed in this memo below.

COVID-19 Measures

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, clinic set-up and administration of influenza vaccine will be different this year. When planning immunization clinics, healthcare professionals are to ensure that public health guidelines pertaining to mass gatherings and physical distancing are adhered to. Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is also recommended when administering influenza vaccine. This includes healthcare providers wearing a mask and face shield and the general public wearing a non-medical mask (please see attached document "Clinic guidance for influenza vaccine during COVID").

PPE will be provided to all healthcare professionals administering influenza immunizations. To order masks, face shields and a kit containing gloves and gowns for your influenza clinic setting, please complete the inventory requisition form (attached) and email to: inventory.supplychain@centralhealth.nl.ca.

When placing your initial order for PPE, you will receive a clinic kit containing 10 gowns and a box of medium and large gloves. If the clinic kit is depleted prior to the end of the influenza season, an additional kit can be ordered using the email above. As a guide for ordering PPE, one eight-hour shift with one immunizer would need five masks and one shield. This will allow a change of mask during breaks and lunch and additional masks if one becomes wet or soiled.

For more information on PPE requirements and ordering, refer to the attached document, ***Clinic Guidance for Influenza Vaccine during COVID.***

For the latest information on COVID-19 public health recommendations, please visit <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>

Recommended Recipients for Seasonal Influenza Immunization

The publicly funded seasonal influenza vaccine program provides influenza vaccine 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 healthcare providers who are capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk. Because reducing the burden of influenza is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Newfoundland and Labrador vaccination coverage goal this season is 85% of the population.

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 2020-2021

Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccines (QIV)

1. **Fluzone**, an inactivated vaccine, is the main product supplied by the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS). It is available in multi-dose vials containing 10 doses per vial. A limited supply of pre-filled syringes will also be available. Fluzone is administered by intramuscular (IM) injection for all persons aged six months and older.

Fluzone product monograph:
<http://products.sanofi.ca/en/fluzone-qiv.pdf>

DIN # 02432730 (mdv)
DIN # 2420643 (pfs)

2. **FluLaval**, an inactivated vaccine, will also be supplied by the DHCS this season. It is available in multi-dose vials containing 10 doses per vial. FluLaval is administered by IM injection for all persons aged six months and older.

FluLaval product monograph:
https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00057996.PDF

DIN # 2420783

Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (TIV)

3. **Fluzone High-Dose**, an inactivated vaccine, will be offered only to residents of Long Term Care and Personal Care Homes who are 65 years of age and older.

Fluzone High-Dose product monograph:
<http://products.sanofi.ca/en/fluzone-hd.pdf>

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, 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 and older to less than 9 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time are recommended to receive two doses of vaccine spaced at least four weeks apart. Children 6 months and older to less than 9 years of age who have been vaccinated with one or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine in the past should receive one dose of influenza vaccine per season thereafter.

Post Immunization Observation Period

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has developed an advisory statement of recommendations for the duration of post-vaccination observation period for influenza vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit: https://www.pharmacists.ca/cpha-ca/assets/File/education-practice-resources/Flu-NACI-Post-VaccinationObservation-AdvanceCopy_EN.pdf

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: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-s1-routine-guidlms-schedules.pdf>

AEFI form:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/aefi-form-july23-2020-eng.pdf>

Vaccine Ordering Process

The distribution and supply of vaccine will be monitored very closely through the regional health authority (RHA). Physicians and pharmacists are expected to order a one-month supply as their initial order. To prevent waste, it is imperative that healthcare providers adhere to this recommendation and do not overstock vaccine.

Please contact Communicable Disease Control staff in the following areas to arrange for an order of influenza vaccine:

EASTERN HEALTH	
Mount Pearl Square Vaccine Depot Telephone: 752-4886 Fax: 752-4873	Holyrood Vaccine Depot Telephone: 229-1572 Fax: 229-1589
CENTRAL HEALTH	
Telephone: 292-8881 Fax: 651-6483	
WESTERN HEALTH	
Telephone: 784-5417 Fax: 637-5160	
LABRADOR-GRENFELL HEALTH	
Telephone: 454-0375 Fax: 454-4978	

Influenza vaccine must be ordered using the ***Influenza Vaccine Order Form*** (attached). Fax the order form to the Communicable Disease Control Office in your region (as per contact information above). The appropriate regional office will advise when your vaccine is ready for pick-up.

Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Monitoring

Vaccine temperature must be maintained between 2°C to 8°C at all times. Vaccine viability may be compromised if not stored properly. Insulated coolers and sufficient supply of ice packs will be required when picking up vaccine. Vaccine will not be released without proper cooling containers for transportation to clinics.

Vaccine must be stored properly in the clinic environment to ensure it remains at the appropriate temperature. Please see the attached document, ***Influenza Vaccine Storage and Handling Factsheet*** for detailed storage guidelines. You can also visit section 7.3 of the NL Immunization Manual:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-im-section7-biological-products.pdf>

Influenza Administration Data Entry

Healthcare providers have a responsibility to ensure proper documentation of influenza vaccine administration. The expectation for this season is that immunizations be documented as record level data.

For pharmacists, A dispense must be recorded on the patient’s medication profile in the Pharmacy Network for all flu immunizations administered using the actual DIN of the product dispensed. Each immunization administration should also be recorded in the Pharmacy Network, which is to include the date of planned next dose if administering to a child under 9 receiving the flu vaccine for the first time. If you have any questions on how to properly record an immunization administration, please contact the Service Desk at NLCHI to speak to a member of the Pharmacy Team.

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 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 ≥ 65 years of age.
- All children 6 to 59 months of age (< 5 years of age).
- Indigenous 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 with avian influenza- infected poultry during culling operations.

References & Resources:

Department of Health & Community Services Provincial Website:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/publichealth/>

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2020-2021*:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2020-2021.html>

INFLUENZA VACCINE ORDER FORM

Healthcare Provider ordering influenza vaccine: _____

Healthcare Provider address:

Healthcare Provider Telephone: _____

Date: _____

Product	Administration	Specific age group	# of Doses required	Product provided by RHA	# of Doses sent from RHA
Influenza Vaccine	Injection	6 months and over			

EASTERN HEALTH	
Mount Pearl Square Vaccine Depot Telephone: 752-4886 Fax: 752-4873	Holyrood Vaccine Depot Telephone: 229-1572 Fax: 229-1589
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For RHA Vaccine Depot Completion:

Date Order Received: _____ Date Order Sent from RHA: _____

