Influenza Campaign 2017-2018

**Campaign Launch:** A portion of the influenza vaccine product supply has arrived. We have received some Fluviral and Agriflu and minimal quantities of pediatric vaccines. Vaccine has been distributed to residential care facilities and we will now commence distribution of ‘start-up supply’ to community immunizers. We will call you as soon as your initial order is ready for pick up. Given the increased volume of multi-dose products available, you may need a larger supply of injection equipment than in recent years.

**Eligibility:** There are no changes to eligibility criteria this year. Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody, and provided free for those at high risk of influenza complications including all pregnant women, those in contact with people at high risk including visitors to health care facilities, and essential community service providers.

### Publicly funded influenza vaccines available this season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Type</th>
<th>Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIIV) for Adults</th>
<th>Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccines (QIV) for Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trade name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fluviral®: 18 years +</td>
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<td>• FluLaval® Tetra (QIV, Inactive): 6 months to 17 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Agriflu®: 18 years +</td>
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<td>• Fluzone® Quadrivalent (QIV, Inactive): 6 months to 17 years</td>
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<td><strong>Strains</strong></td>
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<td>• Flumist® (nasal spray, LAIV-Q, Live ): 2-17 years</td>
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<td>• A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)</td>
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<td>*new this year</td>
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<td>• A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)</td>
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<td>• B/Brisbane/60/2008</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anaphylaxis to eggs</strong></td>
<td>Anyone with egg allergies, even if severe, can be offered any influenza vaccine (inactivated or live)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Flumist® (LAIV-Q) for children:** Though the delivery of this product is delayed, it will continue to be available this fall in limited quantities. The reduced efficacy of Flumist previously reported in the U.S. with the 2013-14 vaccine is felt to be due to vulnerability of the A/H1N1 strain to heat. This strain has since been replaced with a heat stable antigen. The Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) continues to monitor efficacy data for Flumist and recommends this vaccine for children.

**Influenza vaccine for seniors:** In order to simplify number of vaccine products offered, Fluad was not purchased by the province and will not be available this fall. Fluviral or Agriflu should be offered to seniors. **Fluzone High-Dose** is a private pay option for seniors, recommended by NACI, and can be purchased without prescription at select pharmacies or VCH Travel Clinic.

**Changes to influenza vaccine ordering and distribution:** As you are aware, we did not request an entire season order from you. After the initial distribution of influenza vaccine, please continue to place regular orders with your local public health unit based on the vaccine demand in your office.

**Resources for your patients:** Health files on influenza illness and vaccines are available in a number of languages at [www.HealthLinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthLinkBC.ca). These are routinely used by VCH and may be of interest to your patients as well.