

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2022-2023: Bulletin #1

The provincial influenza vaccination campaign is set to start in October. Influenza vaccine will be offered to BC residents at community COVID-19 booster clinics, pharmacies, as well as physician and nurse practitioner offices. Reported cases of influenza were very low the last two winters, but this summer saw a rebound increase in influenza activity in select Southern Hemisphere jurisdictions, which may occur in the Northern Hemisphere this winter. The influenza vaccination campaign thus remains a critical component of protection against seasonal respiratory illness, which poses significant morbidity for vulnerable children and adults. In addition, it reduces the risk of unnecessary isolation or testing for COVID-19. We encourage you to work with your local Division of Family Practice to offer influenza immunization clinics to your patients.

Eligibility: Influenza vaccine is recommended and **provided free for all BC residents ≥ 6 months of age**. In particular, it should be offered to:

- People at high risk of influenza complications (all children 6-59 months of age, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, children and adults 5-64 years of age with underlying chronic health conditions)
- People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk, including household contacts, health care workers, and visitors to health care facilities
- People who provide essential community services
- Anyone else who wishes to reduce their risk of influenza

Publicly funded influenza vaccines available this season:

Product name	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Flumist® Quadrivalent ¹	Fluad® Trivalent, Adjuvanted	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent
Intended use ²	≥ 6 months of age	2-17 years of age	≥ 65 years ³ of age	≥ 65 years ³ of age
Format ⁴	MDV or PFS	PFS	PFS	PFS
Strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus • A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus (NEW strain this year) • B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (B/Victoria lineage) (NEW strain this year) • B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage) – in quadrivalent vaccines only 			

Notes:

¹Flumist® is a live, attenuated vaccine, administered as intranasal spray; additional contraindications apply.

²Do not miss an immunization opportunity: if an intended product is not available, please use an appropriate alternate product.

³ There are two influenza vaccines available for people 65 years and older: Fluad® for community dwelling seniors, and Fluzone HD® for individuals 65+ who are residents of Long Term Care or Assisted Living facilities or residents of First Nation communities. Individuals 65+ can also be offered Fluzone®.

⁴MDV = Multi-dose vial; PFS = Pre-filled single-dose syringes or sprayers.

Reminder: People with severe egg allergy (including anaphylaxis) can be offered any influenza vaccine.

Timing: Influenza vaccine can be given at the same time as, or any interval from, COVID-19 vaccine or other vaccines.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 | Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours, contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

Chief Medical Health Officer: Dr. Patricia Daly

Vancouver: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Dr. Michael Schwandt 604.675.3900

Richmond: Dr. Meena Dawar 604.233.3150 | North Shore: Dr. Alex Choi 604.983.6701 | Coastal Rural: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn 604.675.3900

To receive these updates by email please contact us at VCHPhysiciansUpdate@vch.ca

Physician and Nurse Practitioner Update

September 12, 2022

From the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Vaccine ordering and distribution process: We expect to start receiving influenza vaccine by mid to late September and will be offering an **initial supply** to primary care offices soon after. *If your office received influenza vaccine last year, you do not need to place an initial order.* Offices new to the influenza vaccination campaign are invited to call their local health unit to register and request vaccine.

As several deliveries are expected through to December, clinics will be able to **re-order vaccine as needed**. As in previous years, multi-group practices should place orders for the entire group. Please wait to schedule your influenza immunization clinics until we communicate further details on the dates of vaccine arrival and distribution.

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