Physicians' Update

23 October 2020 From the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2020-2021: Bulletin #3

We are now three weeks into the current influenza vaccination campaign with majority of vaccine distributed to community immunizers. Nearly all physician offices have picked up some vaccine, with many picking up as much as last season. Thanks for taking a proactive approach to immunizing this season despite the additional time, space and infection control requirements given COVID-19.

Due to the heavy demand from clients and interest among immunizers including new immunizers, we have many reorders that have not been filled. We have a small amount of vaccine inventory remaining and more is expected in early November.

- If you have already placed an order which has not been completely filled, please do not place another order. We will get you as much vaccine as we can.
- If you have not placed a reorder but are planning to immunize patients in your practice and do not have sufficient vaccine doses, please place your orders by end of day, Wednesday October 29.
- Please review your orders carefully to ensure the amount of vaccine ordered is close to the anticipated/booked immunization appointments in your office. We will provide as much vaccine as possible from the remaining vaccine supply.
- Please maximize the use of products in your office fridge. Do not wait for a preferred product as many products can be used across age groups.

If you are not immunizing your patients just yet, or you run out of vaccine in your office, please note that we are expecting more supply in the coming weeks. Influenza activity in the community has so far been minimal and thus, there is adequate time for people to be immunized over the next two months. In addition, there is lots of vaccine available in the community. You may also direct your patients to the following website and locations for influenza clinics:

- ImmunizeBC.ca
- Local walk in clinic or pharmacy

Thank you.

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. Althea Hayden, Dr. James Lu, Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Dr. Michael Schwandt, Dr. Alexandra Choi 604.675.3900 Richmond: Dr. Meena Dawar 604.233.3150 | North Shore: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn 604.983.6701 | Coastal Rural: Dr. John Harding 604.983.6701

