

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2020-2021: Bulletin #1

During the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza vaccination is critically important to prevent another respiratory illness with similar symptoms that could result in unnecessary isolation or testing for COVID-19. In anticipation of higher demand for influenza vaccine, BC has purchased 30% more vaccine than usual. Vaccine distribution is expected to start in early October and we will have **start-up vaccine supply** for all physician offices that received influenza vaccine in the last season. **If you do not intend to offer influenza vaccine to your patients this season, please notify us as soon as possible by calling your local health unit. Public health is organizing mass clinics and your patients could be directed to those if you are not offering the vaccine in your office.** We encourage you to work with your local Division to offer influenza immunization clinics to your highest risk patients.

Eligibility: There are no changes to eligibility criteria this year. Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody, and provided free to individuals at high risk of influenza complications (children 6-59 months, seniors, pregnant women, people 5-64 years with underlying chronic health conditions), 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:

| Age | Children 6 months to 17 years | Adults 18 years + | Adults 65+ |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--|
| | Quadrivalent vaccines | | Trivalent vaccines |
| | FluLaval Tetra (6 months +) Flumist (2-17 years) | Fluviral Agriflu | Fluad Fluzone HD (LTCF and AL only) |
| | Please do not miss an immunization opportunity. When an intended product is not available, FluLaval Tetra, Fluviral and Agriflu can be used for everyone 6 months and older. | | |
| Strains | A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus* A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus* B/Washington/02/2019-like virus* B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only) *All three components of the trivalent vaccine are new as compared to the 2019/20 season vaccine. | | |
| Notes | 1. Flumist is a live intranasal influenza vaccine; thus additional contraindications apply. 2. People with severe egg allergy (including anaphylaxis) can be offered any influenza vaccine. 3. LTCF: Long Term Care Facilities; AL: Assisted Living | | |

Influenza vaccine for seniors 65+: Free vaccines for community dwelling seniors include Fluad® (an adjuvanted vaccine that produces an enhanced immune response), Fluviral® or Agriflu®. Fluzone HD® (High Dose - produces an enhanced immune response) is provided free for those residing in Long Term Care, and, inventory permitting, to those in Assisted Living; this vaccine will be sent directly to those facilities and will not be available for physician offices. Fluzone HD® is available for purchase without prescription at select pharmacies and the VCH Travel Clinic (\$80).

Vaccine ordering and distribution process: If your office received influenza vaccine last year, you do not need to place an order for this fall. When vaccine arrives, we will connect with your office to offer a **start-up vaccine supply**. New offices interested in immunizing can call your local health unit to get registered for the campaign. **Re-orders** can be placed based on vaccine demand and utilization within your clinic. Multi-group practices are requested to place an order for the entire group rather than by individual physicians. Not all vaccine products arrive at the same time so we will distribute vaccines as we receive them, over multiple shipments. Please do not book clinics until you receive further details on vaccine availability.

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. John Harding, Dr. Althea Hayden, Dr. James Lu, Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Dr. Michael Schwandt 604.675.3900
 Richmond: Dr. Meena Dawar 604.233.3170 | North Shore: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn 604.983.6701 | Coastal Rural: Dr. Geoff McKee 604.983.6701