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COMMUNITY VACCINE PROVIDERS NEWS

Issue 13, October 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Influenza Program Information
- Adverse Reactions Following Immunization (AEFI)
- Egg Allergies/ Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS)
- Reporting of Vaccines Administered
- Education
- Resources
- Additional Resources

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2021-2022 Influenza Program Information

For the 2021/22 publicly funded influenza campaign, influenza vaccine will be available beginning October 12, 2021.

Vaccine Ordering and Distribution

We will be receiving our Influenza vaccines in weekly allotments beginning in the last week of September to the first week of November. We expect to have most of the supply of influenza vaccine products to redistribute to physicians and other community vaccine providers in October.

Please note that due to the incremental arrival of vaccines, we may not be able to fill all orders completely at the onset. We will endeavor to ensure fair and equitable distribution to all community partners and fill your order in as few installments as possible.

As was done last season, physicians and all community

vaccine providers (pharmacists, nurses in First Nation communities, acute, residential care facilities, workplace health & safety, and others) are required to fill out the Influenza Vaccine Order Form when ordering influenza vaccine. Your order for pneumococcal vaccine can be placed at the same time.

NOTE:

Pharmacists request vaccine through the BC Pharmacy Association.

When contracted, pharmacists will order HD Vaccine for residents of Long-Term Care and Assisted Living facilities; and First Nations communities aged 65+ will be ordered from Public Health.

Physicians and other community vaccine providers will request vaccine from Public Health.

Regardless if sourced via BCPhA or local Health Units, cold chain incidents involving publically funded vaccines will be reporting to health authorities (no change).

[Click here](#) to access Influenza Vaccine Order Forms.

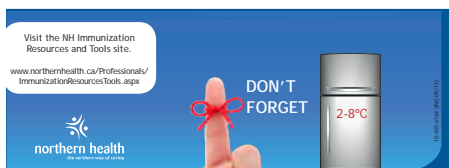
The form can be found at: https://www.northernhealth.ca/sites/northern_health/files/health-professionals/immunization-resources/documents/vaccine-order-form-2021-22.pdf

Please fax the order to the local Health Unit at the number identified on the order form.

Influenza vaccines will be available for pick up starting the week of October 12, 2021 (date of vaccine pick up is dependent on vaccine delivery to health units).



Local biological product monitor contact:



Reminders:

- Call the Biological Product Monitor (BPM) at your local Health Unit to arrange a vaccine order pick up date. Fluzone® requires more storage space as it is packaged as a single dose pre-filled syringe. Please bring an appropriate sized cooler with cooled gel blankets and ice for vaccine pick up.
- Keep your biological fridge between 2-8° degrees celsius.
- Notify the local BPM of any cold chain break incidents and report accordingly.
- Return unused and partially used vials of publicly funded vaccines to your BPM. Never dispose.
- Influenza vaccine can continue to be offered until

the Health Unit sends out a request for annual influenza vaccine return.

About Influenza Vaccines:

Five publicly-funded vaccine products will be distributed in Northern Health this influenza season. These products reflect the following World Health Organization recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the northern hemisphere during the 2021-2022 influenza season.

Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines (QIIV) and Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV-Q) Contains:

- A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Washington/02/2019-like virus;
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus

The A/Victoria and A/Cambodia strains were not contained in the 2020/21 season vaccines.

Influenza vaccine products:

- Afluria® Tetra - Note: Intended for use in eligible individuals 5 years of age and older, including those with contraindications to LAIV-Q. **Administration: Discard multi-dose vials 28 days after first entry**
- FLUMIST® QUADRIVALENT
- FLULAVAL® Tetra **Administration: Discard multi-dose vials 28 days after first entry**
- FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT- Note - A multi-dose vial that has been entered and stored at +2°C to +8°C may be used up to the expiry date indicated on the vial label
- FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE.-

This vaccine is specifically for 65 years of age and older living in long term care facilities and assisted living and First Nations communities

Intended Use of Influenza Vaccines

http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%202%20-%20Imms/Part4/Influenza_IntendedUse.pdf

For more information visit:

BCCDC Influenza (Flu) Information:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/influenza>

BCCDC Immunization Manual: Part 4 – Biological Products at

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization>

Adverse Reactions Following Immunization (AEFI):

For CVPS, all adverse reactions following immunization with any vaccine product are to be reported to the **Northern Health Communicable Disease Hub** 101-155 McDerimid Drive Prince George, BC V2M 4T8
Local Phone: 250.645.3794
Fax: 250.645.7995 or your local health unit. The Medical Health Officer's recommendations for future immunizations will be sent to the immunizer.

The form for reporting Adverse Events following Immunization is available at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/surveillance-forms>

For more information on Adverse Events Following Immunization please visit BCCDC website at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/surveillance-forms>



Egg Allergy

Egg Allergies/ Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS)

[BCCDC Safety Issues Applicable to Influenza Vaccines](#)

Egg Allergic Individuals

Since the 2013/14 influenza season, British Columbia guidelines have allowed for the immunization of egg allergic individuals (including those who have experienced anaphylaxis following egg ingestion) with inactivated influenza vaccine, in any setting, following standard vaccine administration practices. These changes were based on recommendations issued by the US Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters (2013) and were reflected in the SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS section of each of the inactivated influenza vaccine product pages for the 2013/14 season. As of the 2014/15 statement, NACI indicated that egg allergic individuals, including those who have experienced anaphylaxis following egg ingestion, can be immunized with a full dose of inactivated influenza vaccine (trivalent and quadrivalent) according to standard practices. This recommendation is supported by accumulating data on the safe immunization of these individuals using inactivated

influenza vaccines. (BCCDC Immunization Manual, August 2021)

As per the *NACI Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2016-2017: Addendum-LAIV Use in Egg Allergic Individuals*, LAIV can be safely administered to egg allergic individuals, including those who have experienced anaphylaxis following egg ingestion, according to standard practices. This recommendation is supported by recent studies that assessed the safety of LAIV in egg allergic individuals.

For unresolved questions about egg allergies and severe Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS) you may contact your local health unit or MHO. For more information, please see [BCCDC Safety Issues Applicable to Influenza Vaccines](#) for more details on egg allergies and ORS in the BC Communicable Disease Control (BCCDC) Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products which can be accessed at: http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%202%20-%20Imms/Part4/Influenza_SafetyIssues.pdf

Reporting of Vaccines Administered

Community vaccine providers receiving vaccine from Public Health are asked to report required details for all clients who receive the Pneumococcal vaccine and for children 8 years of age and younger who receive Influenza vaccine, so that public health records are complete and administration of unnecessary doses is avoided. You will be provided with this form at the time you receive your vaccine.

Click [here](#) to access Influenza and Pneumococcal Reporting Forms: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/for-health-professionals/immunization-resources-tools#current-issue#influenza-immunizations>

Reporting

All Community Vaccine Providers (CVPs) must complete the Influenza Vaccine Utilization Report. This form is used to track the number of doses administered per vaccine and the age groups that received this vaccine. This form is to be completed and returned/faxed by CVPs to the appropriate community specific health unit by January 31, 2022.

The Influenza Vaccine Utilization Report form can be found at: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/for-health-professionals/immunization-resources-tools#current-issue#influenza-immunizations>

Education

For care providers new to Influenza immunizations as well as those who want in-depth information on the disease and/or vaccines please see BCCDC Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza: Disease and Vaccines at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses>

For care providers who have taken the Foundations Course and/or experienced clinicians wanting an update for this Influenza season please see BCCDC Immunization Courses: Seasonal Influenza Update: Summary - New for Influenza Season 2021/22 at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/seasonal-influenza-update>

Resources

1. BC Communicable Disease Control (BCCDC) Manual: <http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm>
2. BCCDC Seasonal Influenza Update - Summary - New for this Influenza Season: http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Educational%20Materials/Immunization/Vaccine%20Info/Summary_Influenza_Season_Updates.pdf
3. Recommended composition of Influenza Virus vaccine for use in the 2021-2022 northern hemisphere influenza season: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/recommended-composition-of-influenza-virus-vaccines-for-use-in-the-2021-2022-northern-hemisphere-influenza-season>
4. FluWatch: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza/influenza-surveillance.html>
5. BCCDC Immunization Clinical Resources (See Recent updates & Q&As, Seasonal Influenza)
 - [2021/22 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Eligibility](#)
 - [NACI statement on seasonal influenza](#)
 - [Fluzone® High-Dose Influenza Vaccine Q&A \(August 2021\)](#)
 - [BCMJ Article: Influenza vaccine in pregnancy: Is it safe?](#)

Additional Resources

Northern Health influenza information is available at: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/for-health-professionals/immunization-resources-tools?keys=immunization#influenza-immunizations#biologicals-amp-immunizations#immunization-resources#current-issue>

<https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/flu?keys=flu#people-at-high-risk#people-capable-of-transmitting-influenza-to-those-at-high-risk>

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2021-2022.html>

HealthlinkBC – Health files at: [HealthLinkBC Files - HealthLinkBC](#) or

- [Facts about Influenza \(The Flu\) \(12b\)](#)
- [Inactivated Influenza Vaccine \(12d\)](#)
- [Influenza \(Flu\) Immunization: Myths and Facts \(12c\)](#)
- [Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine \(62b\)](#)
- [Why Seniors Should Get the Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine \(12a\)](#)
- [Influenza \(Flu\) Season](#)
- [Live Attenuated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine \(12e\)](#)

Immunize BC website at: <https://immunizebc.ca/>

BCCDC Immunization Manual: Part 4-Biological Products at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization/biological-products>

For Health Professionals at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals>



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