

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2019-2020: Bulletin #1

Thanks for supporting the annual influenza vaccination campaign which is expected to start in early October. Please do not book clinics until you receive further details on vaccine availability.

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 +
Trade name	Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FluLaval® Tetra • Fluzone® Quadrivalent 	Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluviral® • Agriflu®
Please do not miss an immunization opportunity. When intended product is not available, all four products can be used for ages ≥ 6 months.		
Strains	A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus* A/Kansas/14/2017(H3N2)-like virus* B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (Victoria lineage) B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (Yamagata lineage) in quadrivalent vaccines only *The A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 components of the vaccine have been updated for this fall.	
Anaphylaxis to eggs	People with severe egg allergy (including anaphylaxis) can be offered any influenza vaccine.	

Vaccines not available this season: Flumist® Quadrivalent is not available in Canada within the publicly funded program or for private purchase at pharmacies. This is due to undisclosed decisions by the company, Astra Zeneca.

Influenza vaccine for seniors: Publicly funded vaccines for seniors include Fluviral® or Agriflu®; both are recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) for immunization of all ages including seniors. You may receive a number of questions about Fluzone HD® (High Dose). Fluzone HD® is a trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine with a four-fold dose of antigen compared to standard-dose influenza vaccines, intended to generate a stronger immune response in the elderly. It is licensed for those 65 years and older, and provides better protection for this age group against influenza and its complications. Additional details can be found in the [NACI statement on influenza vaccines](#), or in the [BCCDC FAQ on Fluzone HD®](#). As with a number of other recommended vaccines, Fluzone HD® is not publicly funded. However, we do recommend it be offered to those 65 years and older. Though availability and cost may vary, Fluzone HD® is available for purchase without prescription at select pharmacies and the VCH Travel Clinic. For those who choose not to purchase this vaccine, we recommend they receive one of the two publicly funded influenza vaccines.

Influenza 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 can call us to get registered for a start-up supply. **Re-orders** can be placed every 2-4 weeks based on anticipated vaccine demand within your clinic. Please use the office-specific **Vaccine Request Form** that will be provided to you when you receive the start-up supply. Please keep copies of this form for the duration of the influenza season. Multi-group practices are requested to place an order for the entire group rather than by individual physicians. In order to ensure optimum vaccine performance, vaccine will not be released in the absence of adequate **cold chain supplies** (hard sided coolers, water blankets, ice packs).

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900

Vancouver Medical Health Officers
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To receive Pharmacists' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca