

Influenza Campaign 2020-2021: Update #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. Vaccine distribution is expected to start in early October and we will have **start-up vaccine supply** for all locations 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.

Eligibility: There are no changes to eligibility criteria: 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, Fluvlaval 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 compared to the 2019/20 season vaccine.		
Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flumist is a live intranasal influenza vaccine; 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; the vaccine will be sent directly to those facilities and will not be available for distribution to community pharmacies.

Vaccine ordering and distribution process: If you 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 supply**. New pharmacies interested in immunizing can call your local health unit to get registered. **Re-orders** can be placed based on vaccine utilization in your pharmacy starting the week of Oct 19th. Not all vaccine products arrive at the same time so we will distribute vaccines as we receive them over October and November. Please do not book clinics until you receive further details on vaccine arrival.

Public health is looking for pharmacists interested in immunizing at VCH influenza clinics. If you are interested in immunizing alongside public health practitioners, please contact the following individuals and provide your location, contact person name, phone number, and pharmacy hours:

North Shore: Nicole.Roy3@vch.ca; Vancouver: Sabrina.PurewalGill@vch.ca; Richmond: Kim.Bourhill@vch.ca; Sea to Sky: Kate.OConnor@vch.ca; Sunshine Coast/Powell River/Bella Coola: Jayna.DeRoos@vch.ca

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

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 604.233.3150 | North Shore: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn 604.983.6701 | Coastal Rural: Dr. Geoff McKee 604.983.6701