

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. All pharmacies have received vaccine with many picking up more than 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 very limited amount of vaccine inventory remaining and more is expected in 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. Please do not call your local public health unit to inquire about the status of your order; we will contact you when your order is ready for pickup.
- Please maximize the use of influenza vaccine products available in your pharmacy fridge. Do not wait for a preferred product as many products can be used across age groups.
- If you have not placed a re-order already, you are welcome to submit one. Please review this re-order carefully to ensure the amount of vaccine requested is close to the anticipated/booked immunization appointments. As more vaccine is expected in November, we will fill your re-order as soon as we can and we will call you when it's ready.
- For now, we recommend that you do not book immunization appointments that exceed the amount of vaccine in your fridge.
- Our local health units are receiving a tremendous volume of enquiries and are unable to keep up. In lieu of phone calls, we recommend that you please direct your questions or concerns to CDCVaccines@vch.ca.

We appreciate that many people want to be immunized as soon as possible. Please let them know that there is very little influenza activity in the community and thus there is plenty of time for people to be immunized over the next two months or more. In addition, there is lots of vaccine available in the community. Individuals seeking an immunization appointment sooner than you can offer can be directed to the flu locator on ImmunizeBC.ca.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank you for increasing access to influenza vaccine within all communities.

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