

21 September 2018

From the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2018-2019: Bulletin #1

Thank you for supporting our annual influenza vaccination campaign which will likely start in early October. Please do not book clinics until you receive further details on vaccine arrival and distribution.

Eligibility: Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody, and provided free to individuals at high risk of influenza complications (children 6 to 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.

Flu Vaccines that will be part of the publicly funded influenza campaign this year		
Vaccine Type	Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for Adults	Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccines (QIV) for Children
Trade name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluviral®: 18 years + Influvac®: 18 years + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluzone® (Inactivated): 6 months - 17 years Flumist® (nasal spray, Live attenuated influenza vaccine): 2-17 years
Strains	A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; NEW A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus; NEW B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus, and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only).	
Do not miss an immunization opportunity	When a preferred product is not available Fluviral® or Fluzone® can be administered to individuals <u>6 months</u> of age and older. Influvac® can be offered to ages ≥ 3 years. Flumist® can be offered to adults up to 59 years of age <i>once your pediatric patients have been immunized.</i>	
Anaphylaxis to eggs	Individuals with severe egg allergy, including anaphylaxis to eggs, can be offered any influenza vaccine (inactivated or live).	

Flumist® (LAIV-Q) for children: The Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has reviewed effectiveness data from the 2010-2016 seasons. Evidence is consistent with comparable protection between the live and inactivated influenza vaccines and this vaccine continues to be recommended for children.

Influenza vaccine for seniors: Seniors should be offered **Fluviral®** or **Influvac®**. **Fluzone® High-Dose** is a private pay option for seniors, recommended by NACI, and can be purchased at select pharmacies or VCH Travel Clinic.

Changes to influenza vaccine ordering process and distribution: As you are aware, if you have previously placed an influenza vaccine order, this is no longer required in advance of the season. When vaccine arrives, we will connect with you to offer a startup supply. Following this, please request additional vaccines as per demand in your office.

At the initial distribution, your office will be provided the template **Vaccine Request Form** specific to your location. Please come prepared with cold chain supplies when picking up vaccine. Unlike previous years, we may not have cold chain supplies available at distribution time and vaccine cannot be released without adequate protection. Your local Community Health Centre will provide your office with the details and updates regarding your designated pick up date and location.

Resources for your patients: Health files about influenza illness and vaccines are available in several languages at www.HealthLinkBC.ca. These are used by VCH and may be of interest to your patients.

2018/2019 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Pick-up Depot Days: For Community Vaccine Providers

Open time:	07:30 to 13:00			
Date, Site, Location and Time	October 1, 2018 October 2, 2018 October 3, 2018 October 4, 2018 October 5, 2018 October 9, 2018	Pacific Spirit CHC Three Bridges CHC Robert and Lily Lee Family CHC Evergreen CHC South CHC Raven Song	2110 West 43 rd Ave 1128 Hornby Street 1669 East Broadway 3425 Crowley Dr 6405 Knight Street 2450 Ontario Street	0730-1300 0730-1300 0730-1300 0730-1300 0730-1300 0730-1300
Required:	<p><i>You must attend the CHC where you regularly pick up your routine vaccine supply</i> As we cannot release vaccine without proper cold-chain equipment, please bring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A hard-sided cooler for transport 2. A cool-water insulating blanket (<u>not frozen</u>) 3. An ice pack (s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Cold-chain supplies can be readily bought at Canadian Tire, Walmart and some Pharmacies. Now is a good time to purchase. • Refer to the attached CVP Vaccine Transport Packing Configurations 			
B. Late Arrivals	Arrival of Flumist stock is delayed to the week of October 15 th .			
C. Reminder	Storage volumes – syringe format products require much more space than multi-dose vials for transport & storage.			
	<p>Thank you for your participation in the annual influenza immunization campaign. We appreciate all your support as we make continuous improvements to distribute influenza vaccine to all community immunizers in a timely and equitable fashion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) In order to meet the vaccine needs in an increasing number of immunizing offices, and to prevent wastage, our process for ordering influenza vaccine continues to evolve. b) As per last year, you no longer need to request an entire season allocation of influenza vaccine. c) Offices that have received influenza vaccine in previous years will automatically be allotted an initial start up supply based on prior orders. New offices interested in offering influenza vaccine to your patients will need to contact us in order to get registered. d) Following the initial distribution, your office is asked to place vaccine requests as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please request based on current demand for influenza vaccine in your office rather than prior experience. • We have not yet run out of influenza vaccine in any season and we promise you that your patients will be immunized. • New this year: Vaccine requests and distribution to a multi-physician group practice should be placed by the <u>geographic office rather than per physician</u>. Thus, staff working in a group practice are requested to submit a total order for the entire office rather than per physician. We encourage you to meet with your fellow colleagues within your site to confirm your total influenza vaccine need before placing a request. • To assist you in placing a vaccine request by practice, a group practice or office ID # will be created by VCH and issued under the business office name or lead physician. • Vaccine Request Forms will be created that are unique to your location. These will be provided to you when you stop by to pick up the initial vaccine ‘start up’ amount. Please keep copies for the duration of the influenza season. If you lose this template form, please do call your local community health centre to request a new form for your office. 			