

COMMUNITY VACCINE PROVIDERS NEWS

Issue 15, October 2023

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CONTACT:

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2023-2024 Influenza Program Information

For the 2023/24 publicly funded influenza campaign, influenza vaccine will be available beginning October 10, 2023.

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 (CVPs) 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 CVPs (pharmacists, nurses in First Nation communities, acute, residential care facilities, 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 influenza vaccine through the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA).

When contracted, pharmacists will order HD Vaccine for residents of Long-Term Care and Assisted Living facilities, from Public Health.

Physicians and other CVPs will request vaccine from Public Health.

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

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

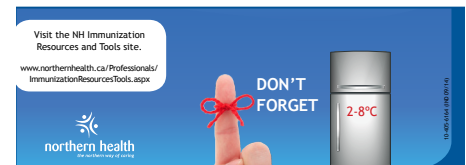
Influenza vaccines will be available for pick up starting the week of October 10, 2023 (date of vaccine pick up is dependent on vaccine delivery to health units).

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.



Local biological product monitor contact:



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 2023-2024 influenza season.

Quadrivalent and Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines (QIIV & TIIV) and Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV-Q):

- A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only)

The A/Victoria strain was not contained in the 2022/23 season vaccines

Influenza Vaccine Products:

- FLUMIST® QUADRIVALENT
- FLULAVAL® TETRA – Discard multi-dose vials 28 days after first entry
- FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT – 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 QUADRIVALENT – This vaccine is specifically for 65 years of age and older living in long term care facilities and assisted living and First Nations communities.
- FLUAD®

Intended Use of Influenza Vaccines for More Information Visit:

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:

<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 299 Victoria St, Suite 500 Prince George, BC V2L 5T8 Local Phone: 250.645.3794, Toll Free: 1-855-565-2990 Fax: 250.645.7995. The Medical Health Officer's recommendations for future immunizations will be sent to the immunizer.

The forms for reporting Adverse Events following Immunization are available at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/adverse-events-following-immunization>

For more information on Adverse Events Following Immunization please visit BCCDC website at:

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

Egg Allergies/Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS)

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 2023).

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/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization/biological-products>

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 or 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 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, 2024.

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

For care providers who have taken the Influenza Immunization Competency Course: Foundations of Influenza Disease & Vaccines and/or experienced clinicians wanting an update for the current Influenza season, please see BCCDC Immunization Course: Seasonal Influenza Update: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/education-development/immunization-courses/seasonal-influenza-update>

Resources

1. [BC Communicable Disease Control \(BCCDC\) Manual](#)
2. CCDC 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 2023-2024 northern hemisphere influenza season: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/recommended-composition-of-influenza-virus-vaccines-for-use-in-the-2023-2024-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 \(See Recent updates & Q&As, Seasonal Influenza\)](#)
 - [2023/24 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Eligibility](#)
 - [NACI statement on seasonal influenza](#)
 - [Influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older Q&A \(Aug 2023\)](#)
 - [BCMJ Article: Influenza vaccine in pregnancy: Is it safe?](#)

Additional Resources

1. Northern Health influenza information is available at: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/for-health-professionals/immunization-resources-tools#current-issue#influenza-immunizations>
2. <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/flu>
3. Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2023- 2024 An Advisory Committee Statement (ACS) National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2023-2024.html>
4. 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 \(12e\)](#)
5. Immunize BC website at: <https://immunizebc.ca/>
6. BCCDC Immunization Manual: Part 4-Biological Products at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization/biological-products>
7. For Health Professionals at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals>
8. [ImmunizeBC Immunization aftercare sheets](#)