

## MEMO

**To:** Healthcare Professionals Offering Influenza Vaccine  
**From:** Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
**Date:** October 11, 2022  
**Re:** Publicly Funded Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Information for 2022 – 2023 Season

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Plans are now underway for the annual seasonal influenza immunization program. Vaccine for the publicly funded program will soon be available for distribution to community-based physician's offices, community health nursing clinics, pharmacies, health facilities, regional health authority (RHA) staff health offices, and other healthcare professionals who are offering influenza immunizations this season.

Eligible healthcare professionals may order publicly funded vaccine through the regional public health offices as directed in this memo.

### **COVID-19**

As per the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations, COVID-19 vaccine can be given at the same time as, or any time before or after, other vaccines, including live, non-live, adjuvanted or unadjuvanted vaccines for individuals 5 years of age and older. For more information on NACI recommendations, visit their [seasonal influenza vaccine statement for 2022-23](#).

When planning immunization clinics, healthcare professionals are encouraged to adhere to public health recommendations. With our current epidemiology, this includes healthcare providers wearing a medical mask and the general public wearing a non-medical mask. As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 Pandemic, program and planning guidance on the use of PPE may change.

PPE and vaccine supplies will be provided to all healthcare professionals administering influenza immunizations. To order PPE and vaccine supplies, complete the inventory requisition form (attached) and email it to: [inventory.supplychain@centralhealth.nl.ca](mailto:inventory.supplychain@centralhealth.nl.ca).

For more information on PPE requirements and ordering, refer to the document, ***Influenza Vaccination Clinic Guidance***

For the latest information on COVID-19 public health recommendations, please visit <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>.

## **Recommended Recipients for Seasonal Influenza Immunization**

The publicly funded seasonal influenza vaccine program provides influenza vaccine to **all individuals 6 months of age and older**. Emphasis should be placed on immunizing those who are at increased risk for complications from influenza, and individuals such as healthcare providers who are capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk.

**Please refer to the appropriate influenza vaccine product monographs to note product-specific age indications, precautions and contraindications. Product monographs must be reviewed prior to administering any vaccine.**

### **Vaccine Products for 2022-2023**

#### **Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccines (QIV)**

1. **FluLaval**, an inactivated vaccine, will be the main product supplied by the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS). It is available in multi-dose vials (mdv) containing 10 doses per vial. FluLaval is administered by IM injection for all persons aged six months and older.

FluLaval product monograph:

[FluLaval Product Monograph](#)

DIN # 02420783

2. **Fluzone**, an inactivated vaccine, will also be supplied by DHCS this season in a limited supply of pre-filled syringes (pfs). Fluzone is administered by intramuscular (IM) injection for all persons aged six months and older.

Fluzone product monograph:

[Fluzone Product Monograph](#)

DIN # 02432730 (mdv)

DIN # 02420643 (pfs)

3. **Fluzone High-Dose**, an inactivated vaccine, will be offered only to residents of long term care, personal care homes, and community care homes who are 65 years of age and older.

Fluzone High-Dose product monograph:

[Fluzone High Dose Product Monograph](#)

DIN # 02500523

**Administration of Influenza Vaccine to Egg Allergic Individuals:**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has concluded that egg allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using inactivated TIV or QIV, without prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose, irrespective of a past severe reaction to egg and without any particular consideration, including immunization setting.

**Immunization of Children**

Children 6 months and older to less than 9 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time are recommended to receive two doses of vaccine spaced at least four weeks apart. Children 6 months and older to less than 9 years of age who have been vaccinated with one or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine in the past should receive one dose of influenza vaccine per season thereafter.

**Post Immunization Observation Period**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has developed an advisory statement of recommendations for the duration of post-vaccination observation period for influenza vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit:

[https://www.pharmacists.ca/cpha-ca/assets/File/education-practice-resources/Flu-NACI-Post-VaccinationObservation-AdvanceCopy\\_EN.pdf](https://www.pharmacists.ca/cpha-ca/assets/File/education-practice-resources/Flu-NACI-Post-VaccinationObservation-AdvanceCopy_EN.pdf)

**Adverse Events Following Immunization**

All Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) are to be reported to the Regional Medical Officer of Health. For details please refer to: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-s1-routine-guidlins-schedules.pdf>

AEFI form:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/aefi-form-july23-2020-eng.pdf>

**Vaccine Ordering Process**

The distribution and supply of vaccine will be monitored very closely through the regional health authority (RHA). Orders will be filled to the best of their ability. Please have measures in place to reduce wastage. It is imperative that you not overstock vaccine which could lead to vaccine wastage.

Please contact Communicable Disease Control staff in the following areas to arrange for an order of influenza vaccine:

<b>EASTERN HEALTH</b>			
Mount Pearl Square Vaccine Depot Telephone: 752-4886 Fax: 752-4873	Holyrood Vaccine Depot Telephone: 229-1572 Fax: 229-1589	Clarenville Vaccine Depot Telephone: 466-5716 Fax: 466-5718	Marystown Vaccine Depot Telephone: 279-7935 Fax: 279-7936
<b>CENTRAL HEALTH</b>			
Telephone: 651-6238 Fax: 651-6483			
<b>WESTERN HEALTH</b>			
Telephone: 784-5417 Fax: 637-5160			
<b>LABRADOR-GRENFELL HEALTH</b>			
Telephone: 285-8410/897-3110 Fax: 896-4042			

Influenza vaccine must be ordered using the ***Influenza Vaccine Order Form***. Fax the order form to the Communicable Disease Control Office in your region (as per contact information above). The appropriate regional office will advise when your vaccine is ready for pick-up.

#### **Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Monitoring**

Vaccine temperature must be maintained between 2°C to 8°C at all times. Vaccine viability may be compromised if not stored properly. Insulated coolers and sufficient supply of ice packs will be required when picking up vaccine. Vaccine will not be released without the proper equipment for transportation.

Vaccine must be stored properly in the clinic environment to ensure it remains at the appropriate temperature. Please see the document, ***Influenza Vaccine Storage and Handing Factsheet*** for detailed storage guidelines. You can also visit section 7.3 of the NL Immunization Manual: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/publichealth-cdc-im-section7-biological-products.pdf>

#### **Influenza Administration Data Entry**

Healthcare providers have a responsibility to ensure proper documentation of influenza vaccine administration. The expectation for this season is that immunizations be documented as record level data.

**Influenza immunization is recommended for all individuals  
6 months of age and older and particularly  
for these high risk groups:**

**People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization:**

- **All pregnant women.**
- Adults and children with the following chronic health conditions:
  - cardiac or pulmonary disorders (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis & asthma);
  - diabetes mellitus and other metabolic diseases;
  - cancer, immune compromising conditions (due to underlying disease and/or therapy);
  - renal disease;
  - anemia or hemoglobinopathy;
  - neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions;
  - morbid obesity (BMI  $\geq 40$ );
  - children and adolescents (age 6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment for long periods with acetylsalicylic acid, because of the potential increase of Reye's syndrome associated with influenza.
- People of any age who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities.
- People  $\geq 65$  years of age.
- All children 6 to 59 months of age (< 5 years of age).
- Indigenous Peoples

**People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk**

- Health care and other care providers in facilities and community settings who, through their activities, are capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk of influenza complications.
- Household contacts (adults and children) of individuals at high risk of influenza-related complications (whether or not the individual at high risk has been immunized):
  - household contacts of individuals at high risk, as listed in the section above;
  - household contacts of infants < 6 months of age as these infants are at high risk of complications from influenza but cannot receive influenza vaccine; and
  - members of a household expecting a newborn during the influenza season.
- Those providing regular childcare to children  $\leq 59$  months of age, whether in or out of the home.
- Those who provide services within closed or relatively closed settings to persons at high risk (e.g., crew on a ship).

**Others**

- People who provide essential community services.
- People in direct contact during culling operations with poultry infected with avian influenza

**References & Resources:**

Department of Health & Community Services Provincial Website:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/publichealth/>

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2022-2023:*

[Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2022–2023 - Canada.ca](#)