

Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer

September 27, 2022

Facilities Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination 2022-2023

**NORTH ISLAND**

**250.331.8591**

Charmaine Enns  
MD MHS Sc FRCPC

355 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

**CENTRAL ISLAND**

**250.739.6304**

Sandra Allison  
MD MPH CCFP FCFP  
FRCPC

3<sup>RD</sup> Floor 6475 Metral  
Drive  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

**COWICHAN REGION**

**250.737.2020**

Shannon Waters  
MD MHS Sc FRCPC

4<sup>th</sup> Floor 238 Gov't St  
Duncan, BC V9L 1A5

**SOUTH ISLAND**

**250.519.3406**

Réka Gustafson CMHO  
MD MSc FRCPC

Murray Fyfe  
MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano  
MD FRCPC

Mike Benusic  
MD MPH FRCPC

1837 Fort Street.  
Victoria, BC V8R 1J6

**AFTER HOURS ON  
CALL**

**1.800.204.6166**

Dear Director of Care:

After two seasons of relatively low influenza activity, we expect incidence to increase this season. To reduce the risk of respiratory illness overall and prevent outbreaks within facilities, **please stress the importance of influenza vaccination with all your staff, residents, and visitors to facilities this season.**

Please see the Island Health website at <http://www.islandhealth.ca/flu> for information about the 2022 - 2023 Seasonal Influenza Campaign. For long term care and assisted living specific information, click on the “Information for Long Term Care & Assisted Living Facilities” button on the webpage.

All vaccine order forms, reporting forms and vaccine information will be available online. Additional information about outbreak preparation and management will also be accessible via this website.

Seasonal influenza vaccine will be delivered to BC in late September/early October. Vaccine will be distributed to long term care facilities as it arrives on Vancouver Island, which is anticipated to begin **the week of October 3rd**. We encourage concurrent administration of the bivalent COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccine to your residents, as they are recommended to receive both. Please place your orders for Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible through your local health unit and plan to **begin vaccinating your residents as soon as Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are available** at your facility. Please include Assisted Living in your order if you are able to vaccinate these residents. Independent living facilities without assisted living beds should order vaccine using the Influenza Vaccine Order Form for Community Vaccine Providers.

Facilities must place the vaccine order for Long Term Care and Assisted Living residents living in the same facility. Facilities that have contracts in place with pharmacists to administer flu vaccine must place their vaccine order and indicate on the form if a pharmacist will be picking up from the health unit on their behalf. Remaining vaccine doses can be stored on site for ongoing administration for residents that were not immunized at the beginning of the season. **If remaining doses will not be used by the facility they should be returned to the local health unit under cold chain conditions on the last day of clinic. Remaining vaccine cannot go into the pharmacists stock.**

**Influenza vaccines and recommended usage:**

This season, publicly funded influenza vaccines are Quadrivalent and Trivalent. The influenza vaccine contains strains that have *changed* from last year. The vaccine will contain:

- A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus (new strain)
- B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (new strain)
- B/Phuket/3073/2013- like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only)

Publicly funded influenza vaccines available for long-term care residents this year include:

Product	Intended Age Group	Product Presentation
<b>FLUZONE® High- Dose Quadrivalent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals <b>65 years of age and older</b> who are residents of <b>long-term care, assisted living facilities</b> and First Nations communities</li> <li>This publicly funded product will be restricted to LTC, Assisted Living and those living in First Nations communities only and will not be available through other community vaccine providers</li> </ul>	<p>*Pre-filled syringes</p> <p>If FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE QUADRIVALENT is unavailable, FLUAD® should be used. If neither of these products are available, FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT may be used.</p>
<b>FLUZONE® Quadrivalent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Residents</b> of facilities <b>18-64 years of age</b></li> </ul>	<p>*Multi-dose vial or pre-filled syringes (limited pre-filled syringes available)</p>
<b>FLUAD®</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Individuals 65 years of age and older</b> residing in the community and <b>Independent Living</b> facilities</li> </ul>	<p>*Pre-filled syringe</p> <p>If FLUAD® is unavailable, FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT should be used.</p>

**\*Pre-filled syringes take up approximately 10 times as much fridge space as multi-dose vials.**

For the general public, there will be FluMist available for children, in addition to Fluzone Quadrivalent. These will be available through health authority clinics, pharmacists, and participating primary care physician offices.

#### **Resources for Facilities:**

Order forms and detailed information for long term care facilities will be available by the end of September on the Island Health Influenza website ([www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/flu-influenza/influenza-information-forms-long-term-care-facilities](http://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/flu-influenza/influenza-information-forms-long-term-care-facilities)) including:

- *Getting Ready for Influenza Season* Checklist for Long term Facilities
- *During Influenza Season* Checklist for Long term Facilities
- Use of Antivirals in Long Term Care Facilities



Réka Gustafson MD FRCPC  
Chief Medical Health Officer



Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer



Mike Benusic MD MPH FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer



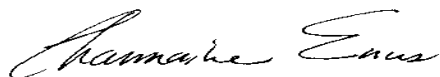
Dee Hoyano MD MSc FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer



Sandra Allison, MD MPH CCFP FCFP FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer



Shannon Waters MD MHSc FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer



Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer