

**Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer**

September 27, 2022

Primary Care Provider Influenza Vaccine Letter

After two seasons of relatively low influenza activity, we expect incidence to increase this season. Your recommendation is one of the most important factors in the decision to get vaccinated. Please continue to stress the importance of influenza vaccination with patients at higher risk of harm, as well as those who are in contact with people at higher risk which includes healthcare providers.

This season, influenza vaccine will also be accessible through health authority clinics providing both COVID-19 and influenza vaccination, and 'whole community' clinics occurring through October and November in rural and remote areas. To ensure influenza vaccines are available in clinics, fewer doses are allocated to primary care providers. **For this season, we recommend only ordering influenza vaccine for patients who have barriers to accessing vaccination clinics (eg. mobility issues, home visits).**

Access:

Location	Population	Process
Health Authority Clinics	Age 6 months old and older, as well as COVID-19 bivalent vaccine.	Invites will be sent out through the provincial Get Vaccinated system (same system as COVID-19 vaccines): https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register
Community Pharmacies	Providing injectable influenza vaccine to those 5 years and older and Flumist® to children at 2 years and older (where available).	
Primary Care Providers	Age 6 months old and older, depending on primary care provider	Advertised to patients by primary care provider

The Provincial Influenza campaign starts in early October. Primary Care Providers can start placing orders the week of October 24th, with expected distribution the week of October 31st.

Eligibility:

Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody aged 6 months and older, and is publicly funded. We recommend strongly those who are at higher risk of influenza complications as well as those in contact with people at higher risk to get vaccinated this season. This includes:

- Children age 6 months to 2 years
- People 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women
- People 5-64 years of age with underlying chronic health conditions
- Health care workers
- Visitors to health care facilities
- Essential community service providers

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**AFTER HOURS ON
CALL**

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Products:

Product	Publicly Funded Intended Age Group	Format
FLUZONE® (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intended for use in individuals 6 months of age – 64 years of age, including those with contraindications to LAIV-Q. 	Multi-dose vial and pre-filled syringe
FLUMIST® (LAIV Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible individuals 2-17 years of age (inclusive) FLUMIST® QUADRIVALENT may be offered to those 18-59 years of age who have a needle phobia and are unwilling to get another influenza vaccine, provided informed consent includes that QIV provides better protection against influenza for this age group. 	Intranasal
FLUAD®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals 65 years of age and older residing in the community * If FLUAD® is unavailable, FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT should be used. 	Pre-filled syringe
FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals 65 years of age and older who are residents of long-term care, assisted living facilities and First Nations communities. * If FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE QUADRIVALENT is unavailable, FLUAD® should be used. If neither of these products are available, FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT may be used. 	Pre-filled syringe
Influenza Vaccine Strains (Publicly funded influenza vaccines available this season are trivalent and quadrivalent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus (new this year) B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus (new this year) B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only) 		

Health Unit Ordering and Distribution Plan:

Public Health receives regular shipments of influenza vaccine from BCCDC from October through December. If you require vaccine for clients who are homebound or have difficulty accessing community clinics, please request only the quantity of vaccine you anticipate needing for the first two weeks. **Subsequent orders** can be placed if needed. Doses on hand **must** be recorded on the order form. **Forms with incomplete information including doses on hand will result in a delay in orders being filled, as Public Health will need to follow-up to request missing information. Allow at least 3 working days (Monday to Friday) to fill your order.**

Please take all steps needed to minimize vaccine wastage.

Influenza vaccine will be distributed based on available supply. If an ordered vaccine is no longer available, another equivalent product will be supplied. If no influenza vaccine or acceptable substitute is available, you will be notified by the local health unit.

Resources:

- [Influenza Information & Forms for Community Vaccine Providers](#)
- [Order Form for Pneumococcal and other Publicly Funded Vaccines](#)
- [Immunization Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)



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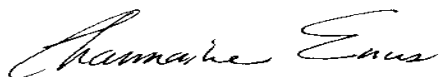
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