

September 29, 2022

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
NO. 347

Facilities Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination 2022-2023

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)

NORTH ISLAND

250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns
MD MHSc FRCPC

355 – 11th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

CENTRAL ISLAND

250.739.6304

Sandra Allison
MD MPH CCFP FCFP
FRCPC

3RD Floor 6475 Metral
Drive
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

COWICHAN REGION

250.737.2020

Shannon Waters
MD MHSc FRCPC

4th 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

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

Product	Intended Age Group	Product Presentation
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 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 	<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>
FLUZONE® Quadrivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of facilities 18-64 years of age 	<p>*Multi-dose vial or pre-filled syringes (limited pre-filled syringes available)</p>
FLUAD®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals 65 years of age and older residing in the community and Independent Living facilities 	<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) 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



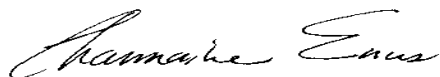
Dee Hoyano MD MSc FRCPC
Medical Health Officer



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