



## Health

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Communicable Disease Control  
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Dear Health Care Provider:

### Re: Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Program 2012-13

#### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine:**

The seasonal trivalent vaccine for 2012-13 provides active immunization against three influenza strains. It is important for everyone to get the flu shot every year.

The seasonal influenza vaccine is **available to all Manitobans at no charge**; however, immunization is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from influenza, their caregivers and close contacts. This includes:

- Seniors aged 65 or older
- Residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities
- Children six months to five years of age
- Those with chronic illness, such as:
  - An immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
  - A condition that makes it difficult to breathe
  - Children 6 months to adolescents 18 years of age on long-term acetylsalicylic acid (i.e. aspirin) therapy
  - Other chronic medical conditions (ex. diabetes, mental disabilities)
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals of Aboriginal ancestry
- People who are severely overweight or obese
- Or as determined by your primary health care provider

#### **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) Vaccine:**

- This vaccine is available at no charge to all Manitobans age 65 or older and those at most risk for invasive pneumococcal disease. For Manitoba Health eligibility criteria for vaccines offered free-of-charge, please visit: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.
- Manitoba Health is mailing letters to those individuals who have turned 65 in the last year who have not received their Pneu-P-23 immunization (excludes those who live in a personal care home). For this year, approximately 11,100 Manitobans 65 years of age will be receiving a letter late-September.
- Routine re-immunization is **NOT** recommended. Please refer to the product monograph and/or *the Canadian Immunization Guide* (2006) for detailed information.

**Vaccine Orders:**

- Orders for vaccines can be placed by completing the order form available online at: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf).
- Influenza orders will be shipped once product arrives in Manitoba. Please indicate the date(s) of your clinic(s), if applicable, in the comments area of the order form to ensure timely delivery. All personal care homes and hospitals should place their orders as soon as possible.
- The majority of Manitoba's influenza vaccine will consist of Fluviral® in 10 dose vials and a small amount of Thimerosal-free Agriflu® in single dose, pre-filled syringes. Due to a lesser quantity of Agriflu®, only a small quantity will be released at a time, and orders may require approval of Manitoba Health.
- Agriflu® should be administered to those who have a known or suspected allergy to Thimerosal and to those individuals who would otherwise decline immunization if only a Thimerosal-containing vaccine were offered.

**Resources:**

**'Get the shot, not the flu! Protect yourself. Protect your friends and family'** updated resources (including fact sheets, posters and brochures) are now available online and can also be ordered through the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA) accessed at: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html).

The **National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI's) Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2012-13** will soon be available on the Public Health Agency of Canada's website at: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php).

**Adverse events following immunization** should be reported to Manitoba Health through regional public health using the form online at: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi\\_form.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi_form.pdf).

The *updated* **Seasonal Influenza Protocol** to guide the management of influenza cases will be available in the fall and accessible online at: [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html)

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

*"Original signed by"*

Kathleen Messner R.N. B.N.  
Director, Communicable Disease Control