



Health and Healthy Living

Public Health Division

Office of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

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Dear Colleagues:

Re: Update of the 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program

Availability and Eligibility: This letter is intended as an update to provide clarification regarding the seasonal influenza vaccine as communicated to health care professionals on October 2, 2009. Specifically:

- Seasonal influenza vaccine continues to be recommended for individuals most at risk for complications from seasonal influenza. See Appendix for recommended groups.
- Publicly-funded seasonal influenza vaccine can be accessed from the provincial warehouse by physicians and public health nurses as per usual processes.

Co-Administration of Seasonal and Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Vaccines: Adjuvanted pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine is likely to be available by early-November with unadjuvanted pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine to follow approximately 2 weeks later. In order to transition from administration of seasonal influenza vaccine to pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine, please note the following:

- Pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine may be given concurrently with seasonal influenza vaccine and other vaccines.
- If not given concurrently, there is no minimum interval required between seasonal influenza and pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine.
- If co-administered, injections should be given in separate limbs.

Immunogenicity: For new information about seasonal influenza vaccine immunogenicity, please refer to the latest update from GlaxoSmithKline on Fluviral® 2009-10 attached, dated Sept. 24, 2009, or refer to the following website link: <http://www.gsk.ca/english/index.html>.

Further information regarding the availability and distribution of the pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine will be provided shortly.

For updated information on MHL Influenza Vaccine programs, please visit the Manitoba Government website at: www.manitoba.ca. For specific public health questions or concerns, health care professionals can always contact a Medical Officer of Health at: 788-8666 (24/7). As an alternative to contacting their own health care provider, clients and patients can get general health information or personal health advice by calling Health Links Info-Santé at: 788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 (toll free).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

“ORIGINAL SIGNED BY”

Dr. Elise Weiss M.D. FCFP MSc.

Acting Medical Lead Emergency Preparedness & Response

Office of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Attachment

APPENDIX

PEOPLE AT HIGHEST RISK OF COMPLICATIONS FROM SEASONAL INFLUENZA as per NACI

- Individuals 65 years of age and over
- Residents of personal care homes and other long term care facilities
- Children 6 to 23 months of age
- Individuals from 24 months to 65 years of age with risk conditions for complications from seasonal influenza as per the 2008-2009 National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations:
 - All pregnant women, regardless of trimester or delivery date
 - Persons of any age with chronic heart or lung disease
 - Anyone with cancer, anemia or a weakened immune system due to disease or medication
 - Persons with other chronic conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, alcoholism and multiple sclerosis may also benefit
 - Anyone with a condition that reduces ability to breathe or increases risk of choking. Such conditions may include spinal cord injury, seizure disorders, cognitive dysfunction (mental disability), nervous system and muscular disorders
 - Children on long-term aspirin therapy