



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

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September 11, 2014

Dear Health Care Provider:

RE: 2014-15 Seasonal Influenza and Pneumo Immunization Program

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (the “flu”):

The seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine for 2014-15 provides active immunization against three flu strains and **is available to all Manitobans over 6 months of age at no charge.** Immunization against seasonal flu is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts. For more information on who is at increased risk, please visit: www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html.

Vaccine Orders:

- Orders for vaccines can be placed by completing the new order form available online at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf.
- As a result of delays from some manufacturers, flu vaccine orders for personal care homes (PCHs), First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH) communities and hospitals will be prioritized for early shipping. Following that, all other orders will be shipped based on indicated clinic dates in the special delivery instructions section on the order form and/or on a first come/first serve basis. It is anticipated that the delays will be resolved by the second to third week of October. **All PCHs, FNIH communities and hospitals should place their orders as soon as possible.**
- If you have already placed your influenza order on or after September 1st 2014, you do not need to place your order again.
- Manitoba will have four seasonal influenza vaccines available this year including Fluviral®, Vaxigrip®, Agriflu® and FluMist®. The majority of Manitoba’s vaccine supply will consist of Fluviral® and Vaxigrip® in 10 dose vials and Thimerosal-free Agriflu® in single dose, pre-filled syringes that come in packages of 10 syringes.
- FluMist® is a live attenuated influenza vaccine for intranasal administration *only* and is supplied in pre-filled single use glass sprayers and is also Thimerosal-free. **FluMist® can be offered to healthy children and adolescents 2 to 17 years of age; all other Manitobans should be offered Fluviral®, Vaxigrip® or Agriflu®.**
- FluMist® has a shortened shelf life of a maximum of 18 weeks. Please keep this in mind when you order to minimize vaccine wastage.
- New this year, some community pharmacists are participating in the Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program. Immunization providers may want to consider reducing their initial influenza order as compared to previous years’ orders (additional vaccine can be ordered at any time, as needed).

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 provincial eligibility criteria for vaccines offered free-of-charge, please visit: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.
- Routine re-immunization is **NOT** recommended. Please refer to the product monograph and/or *The Canadian Immunization Guide* for more detailed information at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-eng.php.
- Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors (MHLS) is mailing letters to those individuals who have turned 65 in the last year who have not received their Pneu-P-23 vaccine (excludes those who live in a personal care home). For this year, approximately 11,000 Manitobans 65 years of age will be receiving a letter in September.

Resources:

“Because it’s about him/her/them too. Get vaccinated. Don’t spread the flu” resources (factsheets, posters and brochures) are now available online and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA), and accessed online at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html.

The **National Advisory Committee on Immunization’s (NACI’s) *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2014-15*** is available on the Public Health Agency of Canada’s website at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php.

Adverse events following immunization should be reported to MHLS through regional public health using: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi_form.pdf.

For more information about immunization, please access the online ***Immunization Program Manual***: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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