



Health, Seniors and Active Living

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Santé, Aînés et Vie active

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August 10, 2020

RE: NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HIGH-DOSE INFLUENZA VACCINE AND UPDATES TO THE INFLUENZA PROGRAM IN 2020/21

Dear Health Care Provider:

Please note that the eligibility criteria for High-Dose Influenza vaccine have been expanded and now include the following eligible clients:

NEW HIGH-DOSE INFLUENZA VACCINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Individuals who are 65 years of age or older, AND**
 - Residents of long-term care facilities, including chronic care residents, **OR**
 - Residents of supportive and assisted living housing, **OR**
 - Clients in interim/transitional care beds, respite care clients as well as new, unimmunized residents admitted to a LTCF during the flu season, **OR**
 - In a provincial correctional facility, including those who are newly incarcerated or transferred from other federal or out of province correctional facilities, **OR**
 - Receiving homecare services while on a waiting list for admission into a long-term care facility, **OR**
 - Living on a First Nation or remote/isolated community, **OR**
 - Living north of the 53rd parallel of latitude

A **NEW** combined influenza and pneumococcal order form is now available online at www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution and can be submitted via email or fax between August 17, 2020 and September 11, 2020 at 4pm.

To reduce wastage and ensure that vaccine is distributed efficiently, health care providers ordering high-dose influenza vaccine on behalf of eligible clients are required to list the name of the facility/location where they will be providing immunization services, as well as which eligibility criteria have been met. All orders will be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis.

High-dose influenza vaccine will only be shipped to immunization providers who will provide on-site clinics to eligible facilities as listed above OR those providing services to eligible homecare clients, individuals living in First Nation or remote/isolated communities and those living north of the 53rd parallel.

Updated Fact Sheets and other resources are available to order, free of charge, for health care providers. Please check the *Seasonal Flu – Information for Health Professionals* website at www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/pro.html to order and for more information on the 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Program Plan.

If your location will be holding advertised influenza immunization clinics, please provide the following information to vaccines@gov.mb.ca by September 4, 2020:

- a. City or town that the clinic will be held
- b. The address of the location
- c. Dates of the clinics
- d. Times of the clinics
- e. If the location is wheelchair accessible
- f. If an appointment is needed
- g. If the clinic will accept walk-ins

Guidelines for setting up influenza immunization clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic will be shared once completed and posted on the seasonal influenza website (www.manitoba.ca/flu). This information will be posted online for the public to be able to locate an influenza clinic (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/where.html>). These immunization clinics are for those locations where the sole purpose of the clinic is to immunize against influenza.

NEW in 2020/21: Interactive Map of Influenza Vaccine Availability

Coming in September 2020, Manitobans will have access to an online interactive map showing which health care provider locations have influenza vaccine in stock.

A separate communication will be sent out in the coming weeks with more information on what this will look like and how the information will be gathered. Health care providers may be expected to report information about their influenza vaccine stock to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living to ensure that the map is kept up to date.

Please continue to monitor the *Seasonal Flu Vaccine Distribution and Supply* webpage at www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution for any updates to the influenza program.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca or call 204-788-6737.

Sincerely,



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Communicable Disease Control



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