

July 8, 2021

Dear Health Care Provider:

RE: 2021/22 Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization Program

Influenza Immunization Program

All Manitobans 6 months of age and older will be eligible to receive the seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine free-of-charge for the upcoming 2021/22 influenza season.

Studies show that a recommendation from a health care provider on immunization is a major contributing factor in a person's decision to be immunized. As a result, health care providers are urged to recommend immunization against influenza as early as possible in the influenza season to all their clients.

Information on Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program can be found online at www.manitoba.ca/flu; **updated information and resources for the 2021/22 season will be posted in the coming weeks.** In addition, The Interim Program Plan: Manitoba's 2021/22 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program will be posted in the coming weeks at www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/msiipp.pdf.

Pneumococcal Immunization Program

Individuals 65 years of age and older and those at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease are eligible to receive a dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) vaccine free-of-charge. For more details on the eligibility for this vaccine, and all other vaccines, please refer to Manitoba's *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded Vaccines* at: www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.

Just as a reminder, the eligibility criteria for the Pneu-P-23 vaccine and Pneu-C-13 vaccine were updated in 2019, and a frequently asked questions and answers document for health care providers was developed and is available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/pneumofaq.pdf>.

Did you know you can place your vaccine order via email?

Fill out the *2021/22 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* online and email to vacmda@gov.mb.ca to avoid fax machine busy signals and have a record of exactly when you sent it.

Flu and Pneu-P-23 Vaccine Ordering Process

All providers/facilities can place their flu and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine order between August 3 and September 3, 2021, using the *2021/22 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* at: www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution. **Orders received prior to August 3rd will NOT be accepted and will need to be resubmitted on, or after August 3, 2021.**

All flu/Pneu-P-23 vaccine orders will be shipped according to the following schedule:

1. priority locations - including hospitals, long-term care facilities and First Nations communities
2. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3
3. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 4, 5 or 6

4. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 7, 8 or 9
5. providers/facilities that order after 4 p.m. on September 3rd, 2021.

Influenza vaccine will begin shipping based on the above schedule when product arrives in Manitoba. Flu vaccines are distributed to all Canadian jurisdictions over a period of several weeks to months, starting mid to late September.

Any delays from the manufacturers or Health Canada during their regulatory processes can affect the timing of product arriving in Manitoba and shipments to health care providers.

All providers/facilities MUST order based on the amount administered and reported last season to reduce wastage. **Failure to reconcile vaccine doses ordered and administered as per Manitoba's Immunization Registry may result in providers/facilities receiving fewer doses than ordered.** It is therefore critical that all doses of flu vaccine that are administered be reported to Manitoba Health. **Flu vaccine wastage should be less than 10% at the end of the season.** Subsequent orders can be placed (at no penalty to the provider/facility), while supplies last.

Manitoba Health and Seniors Care may request that health care providers submit an update of available influenza vaccine doses each week. This will allow Manitoba Health to identify to the public where influenza vaccine is available.

Historically speaking, manufacturers supplying Canada with flu vaccine have experienced shortages or delays in the delivery of their vaccines for various reasons, which are beyond the control of the provinces and territories, including Manitoba. **To allow sufficient time to deliver this year's flu vaccine to your facility/clinic, please do not schedule your immunization clinics before November 1, 2021.** As in previous years, health care providers are encouraged to start offering flu vaccine to their patients as soon as they receive product, even if prior to November 1st.

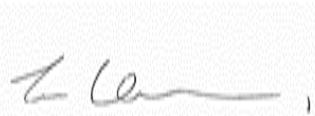
All future updates pertaining to flu vaccine distribution/supply including shortages, delays and approximate dates when all providers/facilities should expect to receive their flu vaccine shipment, will be posted online at www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution.

Lastly, please take this opportunity to return any unused flu vaccine from the 2020/21 flu season to the Provincial Distribution Warehouse using Manitoba Health's Return Policy and Procedure, available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>.

Sincerely,



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