

June 20, 2019

RE: 2019/20 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) and Pneumococcal Immunization Program

Influenza Immunization Program

All Manitobans 6 months of age and older will be eligible to receive the 2019/20 seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine free-of-charge.

Based on interim reports from the southern hemisphere regarding their influenza season, there is a possibility that Canada could see higher levels of influenza circulating, causing increased risk of illness and complications associated with influenza. Health care providers are urged to recommend immunization against influenza as early as possible in the influenza season.

Information on Manitoba's Influenza Immunization Program including order forms (for vaccine and resources), factsheets, etc. can be found online at www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html.

Watch for the updated Interim Program Plan: Manitoba's 2019/20 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program which will be posted soon to 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 please refer to Manitoba's *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded Vaccines* at: www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.

Flu and Pneu-P-23 Vaccine Ordering Process

Providers/facilities can place their flu and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine order between August 15 and September 13, 2019, using the *2019/20 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* (www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/distribution.html). **Orders received prior to August 15th will NOT be accepted and will need to be resubmitted on, or after, August 15, 2019.**

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

1. hospitals, long-term care facilities and First Nations communities
2. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 7, 8 or 9
3. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3
4. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 4, 5 or 6
5. providers/facilities that order **after 4 p.m. on September 13th, 2019.**

Did you know you could place your order via email?

Fill out the *2019/20 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.

Influenza vaccine will begin shipping based on the above schedule when product arrives in Manitoba. Vaccine is expected to arrive around the end of September. Any delays from the manufacturer 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 with 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 MHSAL. **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.

In the event that increased demand is seen, MHSAL may require health care providers to complete an inventory count each week of available influenza vaccine doses. This will allow MHSAL to identify to the public where influenza vaccine is available.

Influenza Product Updates for 2019/20:

NOTE: FluMist® Quadrivalent (AstraZeneca) will not be available in Canada for the 2019/20 influenza season.

NEW: Afluria® Tetra - available in pre-filled syringe format. Age indication is 5 years of age and older. As such, this product will be used to fill pharmacy orders for pre-filled syringes, while supplies last.

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

Sincerely,



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