



ALERT FOR PHYSICIANS/PHARMACISTS

interior health

From your Medical Health Officers

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**HEALTH CANADA
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Do not use Agriflu or Fluad vaccines

Friday evening Health Canada announced that it had asked Novartis to suspend distribution of two influenza vaccines, Agriflu and Fluad.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is also recommending that health care professionals in possession of these vaccines **refrain** from using them until further notice.

This issue was discussed at a provincial conference call this morning.

Therefore I am advising you not to use any Agriflu or Fluad vaccine that you may have in your fridges.

Other influenza vaccines that are available are unaffected and may be given to those seeking immunization.

This situation has arisen because several European countries have temporarily halted the use of these vaccines due to the presence of small particles (clumping) in the vaccines.

There will be people who have already received one of the affected vaccines. So far there have been no reports of serious or unexpected adverse events related to their administration.

At this time it is not possible to predict when or if use of these vaccines will be resumed. This is a decision that will be made at the national level.

Further information will be provided to you as it becomes available.



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