



Medical Health Officers  
**UPDATE** for Physicians

# interior health

September 9, 2013

Fall 2013 Influenza Immunization Update

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To view previous MHO UPDATES, go to: Interior Health [Website](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

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The provincial start date for this year's influenza community campaign is November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please note the products to be used in this year's program are FLUVIRAL® (Inactivated Split Virion from GlaxoSmithKline Inc.), AGRIFLU® (Inactivated Subunit from Novartis) and FLUMIST® (Live, attenuated intranasal from AstraZeneca). Additional information on this year's influenza vaccines is presented in the table on the reverse of this notice. Complete details are available in the BC Centre for Disease Control, Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2, [Immunization Program, Section VII - Biological Products](#)

**NEW:**

**This year, in accordance with provincial practices and to streamline the distribution of vaccine all physicians and other community vaccine providers (CVPs) are required to place an order for their influenza vaccine.** An **order form** is included with this update and at the following link: [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) > Partners > Immunization Resources & Tools > Influenza Immunization Program > Influenza Immunization Resources. Orders are to be faxed to the local health centre at the number identified on the form, and sent to the attention of the Prevention Services Assistant. **Vaccine will be available for pickup from local health centre's the week of October 28<sup>th</sup>. Therefore physicians offices immunizing for influenza will only want to book patients for immunization appointments for the following week, to ensure vaccine supply is on hand.**

Influenza vaccine for the 2013-2014 season will be shipped to health authorities from BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) pharmacy in staggered shipments throughout October and into November. Once received within Interior Health (IH) vaccine will be repackaged for distribution to CVPs. The initial partial shipments of vaccine will be divided between a number of CVPs including Pharmacists, Physicians, Residential Care Facilities, First Nations & Aboriginal services and Workplace Health & Safety. Due to the large number of community providers participating in the influenza immunization program and the incremental arrival of vaccine supply to the health authority, Interior Health will not be able to fill all CVP orders completely at the onset of the program. Instead vaccine will be distributed in several allotments to ensure fair and equal distribution of vaccine to community partners.

**Adverse Reactions Following Immunization (AEFI):**

All significant or unexpected adverse reactions following immunization with any vaccine product are to be reported to the local health centre. MHO recommendations for future immunizations will be sent back to the immunizer. The form for reporting AEFIs is available at [http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/OF7FC86E-924C-4232-87DD-F5859E41A7A2/O/HLTH2319pdfiil\\_19MAR13.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/OF7FC86E-924C-4232-87DD-F5859E41A7A2/O/HLTH2319pdfiil_19MAR13.pdf)

**Resources for Immunizers:**

IH will offer Influenza Education (Flu School) sessions for immunizers including IH staff and community vaccine providers. Details regarding these education sessions, Flu School resources and other influenza resources including vaccine order forms, reporting forms, and cold chain information are available on [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) under the Partners tab > Immunization Resources & Tools.

**Pneumococcal Vaccine:**

Immunizers should assess seniors and other at-risk patients for pneumococcal vaccination status and order Pneumo-23 product from your local IH health centre when placing influenza vaccine orders. Information on pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 vaccine eligibility is available at the BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II, Immunization Program, [Section VII - Biological Products](#) (see specific pneumococcal vaccine pages) at [http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/8FC703E9-95DB-4351-B485-24A35CFEFOCD/0/SectionVIIBiological\\_ProductsJuly2013.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/NR/rdonlyres/8FC703E9-95DB-4351-B485-24A35CFEFOCD/0/SectionVIIBiological_ProductsJuly2013.pdf)

**Reminder Re: Vaccine Ordering**

This year, all Community immunizers, (Physicians, Pharmacists, First Nation & Aboriginal Nurses, Residential Care Facilities and Workplace Health & Safety) must place an order for their influenza vaccine. An order form is included with this update but can also be found at the following link: [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca) > Partners > Immunization Resources & Tools > Influenza Immunization Program > Influenza Immunization Resource. Fax orders to the local health centre at the number identified on the form, ATTENTION: Prevention Services Assistant

**2013/2014 Seasonal trivalent Influenza Vaccine Contains:**

- ◆ A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- ◆ A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus
- ◆ B/Massachusetts/2/2013-like virus

<b>Vaccine</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Specific Information</b>
FLUVIRAL®(Inactivated Split Virion from GlaxoSmithKline Inc.)	◆ has a 28 day shelf life once the vial is punctured, is suitable for any client eligible for publicly funded influenza vaccine.	Physicians First Nation Nurses Pharmacists WH&S	multi-dose vials
AGRIFLU® (Inactivated Subunit from Novartis)	◆ preferentially for use with individuals with a known hypersensitivity to Thimerosal, and for use with pregnant women; can also be administered to any individual eligible for publicly funded vaccine.	Physicians First Nation Nurses Pharmacists WH&S	single dose syringes
FLUMIST® (Live, attenuated intranasal from AstraZenaca) <i>Please note that, while available, free FLUMIST® demo trainers can be requested from your local health centre for CVPs who will be administering Flumist vaccine</i>	◆ supplied only for use with ages 2-17 yrs. (healthy children 24 to 59 months of age as well as with eligible children and adolescents 5 to 17 years of age)	Physicians First Nation Nurses	boxes of 10 applicators

**Publicly funded influenza vaccine is available for:**

- ◆ People 65 years and older and their caregivers/household contacts
- ◆ People of any age in residential care facilities
- ◆ Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
- ◆ Children & adolescents (6 months to 18 years) with conditions treated for long periods of time with Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) and their household contacts.
- ◆ Children & adults who are morbidly obese (adult BMI ≥40; child BMI assessed as ≥95<sup>th</sup> percentile)
- ◆ Aboriginal people (on & off reserve)
- ◆ All children 6-59 months of age
- ◆ Household contacts and caregivers of infants and children 0-59 months of age
- ◆ Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy during the influenza season and their household contacts
- ◆ Inmates of provincial correctional institutions
- ◆ People who work with live poultry
- ◆ Health care and other care providers in facilities and community settings who are capable of transmitting influenza disease to those at high risk of influenza complications
- ◆ Individuals who provide care or service in potential outbreak settings housing high risk persons (e.g., crew on ships)
- ◆ People who provide essential community services (First Responders, Corrections Workers)

**General Influenza Administration Recommendations**

- ◆ Eligible children < 9 years of age, including 6-23 month olds, receive two doses of vaccine 4 weeks apart ONLY if they are previously unvaccinated or if influenza vaccination history is uncertain. If one or more doses have been received in any preceding season, only one dose will be given.
- ◆ For previously unimmunized children 2-8 yrs of age who receive their first dose as FLUMIST®, the second dose can be given in the form of any of the 3 available trivalent influenza vaccines.