



Community Medicine Newsletter

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2014-2015: Bulletin #1

Thank you for supporting our annual influenza vaccination campaign. The campaign will officially start the first week of November. Pending vaccine availability, we may be able to distribute some vaccine ahead of the launch date. **We request that you do not book any immunization clinics until you receive notice about vaccine availability.**

Eligibility: Criteria for publicly funded vaccine remain as last year. Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody, but **provided free for those at high risk of influenza complications, those in contact with people at high risk including visitors to health care facilities, and essential community service providers.** Influenza vaccine is safe and recommended in all stages of pregnancy.

Anaphylaxis to eggs is no longer considered a contraindication to administration of influenza vaccine; these individuals can be immunized in all community settings.

Health Care Worker Policy: This is the third year of the provincial health care worker influenza control policy. If you immunize health care workers, please provide them with a record of immunization. Health care workers are asked to self-report their immunization status to an on-line health authority database.

Flu Vaccines: This year's publicly funded vaccines are Fluviral[®], Agriflu[®], Flud[®], and Flumist[®]. All vaccines offer protection against three influenza strains specified by the WHO: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1), A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2), and B/Massachusetts/2/2012. The strains remain unchanged from last year's vaccine. Annual vaccination is recommended as protection is not expected to last beyond one season. The recommended pediatric dose of injectable products is 0.5 ml. A few product monographs have not been revised to include this information and may still indicate a lower dose for children. Children less than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza immunization for the first time require two doses at least one month apart.

Fluviral[®] and Agriflu[®] are unadjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccines and can be offered to children ≥ 6 months of age, adults or seniors. Flumist[®] or the nasal spray vaccine is the live attenuated influenza vaccine preferentially recommended for children 2-8 years of age, but can be offered to children up to 17 years of age. Seniors ≥ 65 years of age should be preferentially immunized with the adjuvanted vaccine, Flud[®]. All influenza vaccines listed above are licensed by Health Canada. **If you do not have the preferred product in your office for children or seniors, please do offer Fluviral[®] or Agriflu[®] so that an immunization opportunity is not lost.**

Vaccine Distribution: as in previous years we will initially distribute vaccine from the Lions Gate Hospital Lobby. Additional vaccine can then be picked up from your local health unit. As we do not expect to receive our total supply ahead of launch date, we may not fill your entire order at the outset but will distribute as much as we can. More details to come about initial influenza vaccine pick up day.

Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella vaccine (MMRV) can now be ordered for kindergarten-age children

MMRV is available for protecting unimmunized or incompletely immunized children 4-12 years of age. Children usually receive their first dose of MMR and V vaccines after 12 months of age, and are eligible for their second dose at kindergarten entry (4-6 years of age). Kindergarten protection can be offered via the combined vaccine.

The MMRV vaccine is not recommended for young children 1-3 years of age due to the small increased risk of febrile seizures. The same risk is not present in older children.

Vaccine needs to be reconstituted with the diluent prior to administration via the SC route over the upper outer triceps area. Please administer the entire volume of the reconstituted product.

Pneumococcal 23-Is a booster needed?

All seniors starting at 65 years of age qualify for one pneumococcal vaccine. A one-time booster dose, five years from first shot, is only recommended for individuals who have chronic liver or kidney disease, an immunocompromising condition, sickle cell disease or asplenia. As a result, most seniors 65+ do not require a booster.

Adults 19-64 years with chronic heart, lung, liver, kidney disease or other immunocompromising condition, sickle cell disease, anatomic or functional asplenia are also eligible for pneumococcal 23 vaccine.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call our immunization nurse on-call at 604-983-6700.

Best regards,



Mark Lysyshyn, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Health Officer,
Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore