



Community Medicine Newsletter

Information about 2011-2012 Influenza Vaccine Program

1. Seniors ≥ 75 years of age and all those living in long term care facilities will receive a new adjuvanted influenza vaccine (Fluad®). This vaccine takes up 9 times more space than standard multi-dose vials.

This fall's influenza vaccination program in our region will consist of two main products. Fluviral® (GSK) will constitute 80% of our vaccine supply and Fluad® (Novartis) 20%. A very small quantity of Agriflu® (Novartis) is available by special order for people with hypersensitivity to the primary influenza vaccines. Other regions may receive different amounts of each of these vaccines.

Fluad® and Agriflu® are new to British Columbia, though they have been used in Europe for several years.

All three vaccines contain the WHO recommended strains for the Northern Hemisphere, which remain unchanged from last year: A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus, A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

Fluad® is a MF59 adjuvanted vaccine approved for use in elderly ≥ 65 years of age. The adjuvant consists of an oil-in-water emulsion containing squalene, polysorbate 80, sorbitan trioleate and citrate buffer. Vaccine is packaged pre-mixed with adjuvant in a single-dose pre-filled syringe; needle is not included. While this vaccine is approved for use in people ≥ 65 , due to limited supply, we ask you to reserve its use for community dwelling elderly ≥ 75 years of age and residents of long term care facilities.

Fluviral® can be used for children and adults 6 months and older. It comes packaged in a multi-dose vial without syringes. **This vaccine is safe for pregnant women during any stage of pregnancy.** Further programmatic details about eligibility criteria and dose will follow.

Private sale influenza vaccines

A number of influenza vaccines are also available on the private market. These include: Fluviral®, Vaxigrip®, Influvac®, Agriflu®, Intanza®, and Flumist®. Intanza® is a new intradermal formulation approved in Canada for people 18-59 years of age. Flumist® is the only live attenuated influenza vaccine, administered as an intranasal spray and approved for people 2-59 years of age. Please note, Vaxigrip®, the thimerosal reduced vaccine will not be available through public health this season.

Influenza vaccine distribution

Program start date and vaccine distribution dates will be provided to you in September when delivery date of the vaccine has been confirmed. Your vaccine orders will be filled with 80% Fluviral®, and 20% Fluad®. If you require a different combination, either because you immunize more seniors ≥ 75 years of age or have an exclusive pediatric practice, please let us know as soon as possible by filling in the attached order form. **Please note** that Fluad® takes up 9 times more space than multi-dose vials. As such, you may require additional coolers or fridge space for vaccine transport and storage. Some offices may need to pick up vaccine more than once this season. As in previous years, influenza vaccine will be distributed at Lions Gate Hospital. Additional vaccine can always be picked up at Central Community Health Center.

New MMR Vaccine

Beginning this summer, British Columbia will be switching our Mumps, Measles and Rubella vaccine from MMR II™ to Priorix®. The reason for the switch is related to vaccine supply.

There is no difference in the dosing, administration, contraindications and effectiveness between the two vaccines; side effect profiles are also similar. MMR II™ and Priorix® are interchangeable at any scheduled dose.

Please use all of the remaining MMR II™ before switching to Priorix® in order to reduce waste. It is also important to note that the diluents for MMR II™ and Priorix® are not identical and are therefore not interchangeable.

In light out of the recent mumps outbreak in BC and the measles outbreak in Quebec, we would like to remind physicians to offer MMR vaccination to all individuals born between the years 1970 to 1996. During these years, BC only provided 1 dose of MMR as part of the routine immunization series for infants. Therefore, most individuals born during this period will need one additional dose of MMR to be fully protected against mumps and measles.

For more information please refer to the BC CDC immunization manual available at:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/comm-manual/CDManualChap2.htm>

2011-2012 Influenza Vaccine Order Form #2

1. Thank you for sending in your seasonal flu vaccine requisition for the upcoming year.
2. Products available this year are:

Vaccine:	FLUVIRAL (GSK)	FLUAD (Novartis)
Form:	10 doses per vial	Single dose syringe
Storage space:	(as for prior years)	9X greater than FLUVIRAL
Storage required:	2 – 8 °C/ do not freeze	2 – 8 °C/ do not freeze
Shelf-life once opened:	28 days	n/a (single dose)
Client Age Group:	6 months and older	75 yrs +

3. Your vaccine orders will be filled with 80% Fluviral®, and 20% Fluad®. **If you require a different product mix, please return this form to Vancouver Coastal Health (fax: 604-983-6883):**

	Public health planned product mix	Physician preferred product mix:
Fluviral	80 %	
Fluad	20 %	

4. If you have any questions please give us a call at Ph: 604-983-6853.

RETURNED BY:

Practice name: _____
 Contact name: _____
 Contact ph: _____

Sincerely,


 Brian A. O'Connor, MD, MHSc
 Medical Health Officer
 Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore