



Community Medicine Newsletter

IMPORTANT NOTICE: VACCINE RECALL

If you are an immunizer you have received this product

GSK recalls Infanrix hexa vaccine with lot # A21CB242A (expiry date Jan 2014)

Please do not use the affected lot to immunize children. If you have this lot number in your fridge, return it ASAP to your local health office and exchange for another lot as per your usual ordering practice.

A batch of Infanrix hexa™ vaccine is being recalled due to the **potential** for microbial contamination of bulk products used in making the vaccine. There is no indication of actual contamination as all of the manufactured batches passed the sterility test. In addition, there are no safety or potency concerns with this vaccine. Vaccine is being recalled as a precautionary measure. **Children who have received this lot number do not need to be reimmunized.**

If you picked up Infanrix hexa™ from your local health unit between April to September 2012, you may have received vaccine from this batch. Please pull this vaccine from your fridge and return it to your local health unit. Vaccine does not need to be returned under cold chain conditions. As the province will be refunded for this vaccine, your cooperation in returning any affected vaccine is appreciated.

Launch date of 2012-2013 Influenza Vaccine Program delayed to October 29th

The provincial influenza campaign will now launch the week of October 29th due to delays in manufacturing and product release of the Novartis influenza vaccines.

Influenza Vaccine Pick up

Vaccine will be available for pick-up at LGH outside the Doctor's lounge on:
Tuesday October 30, 2012
8:30-11:30am
Lions Gate Hospital Lobby

- Due to staggered vaccine delivery, you will not receive 100% of your order.
- Further doses of vaccine may be ordered through the Doctor's vaccine line at 604-983-6784

Notes and Reminders:

- Vaccines must be transported to your offices in a cooler with ice packs (frozen) and flexible blankets (refrigerated). Please bring appropriate supplies.
- For your convenience, LGH will have influenza vaccine available for inpatient use. This supply of vaccine may be administered to at-risk inpatients prior to discharge.

This season's influenza vaccine contains:

- **A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus**
- **A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus**
- **B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus (B Yamagata lineage)**

Summary of this year's influenza vaccines*:

	Vaxigrip®	Fluad®	FluMist®
Eligibility criteria	≥ 6 months of age	Preferential recommendation for people ≥ 65 years of age	Preferential recommendation for children 2 – 17 years of age
Shelf-life	7 days (from first use)	Single dose product; use prior to expiration date	
Contraindications	- People who have had an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose or any of the vaccine components -History of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 8 weeks of receipt of a previous dose of influenza vaccine Additional contraindications specific to FluMist: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <24 months of age- Those with severe asthma or with medically attended wheezing in past 7 days- Those currently receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy- Pregnancy- Immunocompromised- History of egg allergy		

* Agriflu®, thimerosal free vaccine, is available on a special order basis for individuals with allergy to thimerosal.

NACI recommendations for influenza immunization of egg-allergic individuals: Influenza vaccines contain minute quantities of ovalbumin (<1.2 µg/mL) which is associated with extremely low risk of adverse events.

- **Mild egg allergy:** Individuals with a history of mild egg allergy who can tolerate small amounts of egg and may experience mild gastrointestinal or local skin reactions, can be vaccinated with a full dose of intramuscular or intradermal influenza vaccine and observed for 30 minutes.
- **Severe egg allergy:** Individuals with a history of severe egg allergy (respiratory or cardiovascular reaction or generalized hives when exposed to eggs) or allergic individuals who have poorly controlled asthma should be vaccinated with a graded two step procedure. This involves immunizing with 10% of the vaccine dose followed by 30 minutes of observation. If they do not experience any symptoms or experience mild self-resolving symptoms only, the remaining 90% of vaccine can be administered with another 30 minutes of observation. Second dose should be withheld if the patient develops sustained or severe reaction following the first dose; please refer them to an allergist for further assessment.

If you require further information, please contact the nurse on call at 604-983-6700.

Sincerely,



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