

Influenza Vaccine Program 2020-2021

Update 2 – Sept. 24, 2020

Dear Community Vaccine Providers

Vaccine distribution is expected to start on October 13th. Please review the information below about vaccine eligibility, products available, and intended use by age group. We will send your vaccine order form next week. In addition, we will be hosting two live question and answer sessions with Medical Health Officer Dr. Aamir Bharmal and the Public Health team.

Vaccine eligibility

Eligibility criteria for publicly-funded flu vaccine remains the same as last year:

- People at high risk of serious illness from influenza
- People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high-risk including visitors to health care facilities
- People who provide essential community services (e.g., first responders, corrections workers)

The full eligibility list is available in the [BCCDC CD Immunization Manual – Part 4](#)

Vaccine products available in 2020/21

Available Vaccines	Quadrivalent Vaccines (preferred for children)		Trivalent Vaccines (general population)		Trivalent Vaccines (for those 65 years and older)	
	Flumist	Flulaval Tetra	Agriflu	Fluviral	Fluad	Fluzone HD
Intended population	2 years* to 17 years	6 months* to 17 years	18 years and older	18 years and older	65 years and older	Only residents in long-term care and assisted living ≥65years
	*Infants and children 6months to 8years receiving their first ever flu vaccine should receive 2 doses spaced 4 weeks apart					
Flulaval Tetra, Agriflu, and Fluviral can be used for everyone 6 months and older.						
Dosage and route	0.2mL (0.1mL each nostril), intranasal	0.5mL IM	0.5mL IM	0.5mL IM	0.5mL IM	0.5mL IM
Format and handling (All vaccines should be stored between +2 and +8°C and protected from light)	Pre-filled intranasal spray; single dose	Multi-dose vial. Initial and date vial on first use. Product expires 28 days after this date	Pre-filled syringe; single dose	Multi-dose vial. Initial and date vial on first use. Product expires 28 days after this date	Pre-filled syringe; single dose	Pre-filled syringe; single dose
Strains contained	A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus; A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus; B/Washington/02/2019-like virus; B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only).					

For more details go to the [BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 -Immunization , Part 4; Biological Products, Influenza Vaccines](#)

Changes for the 2020/21 season

- **FluMist®:** Pharmacare will be funding pharmacist administration of publicly funded FluMist® vaccine for the 2020-2021 season. Pharmacists may request FluMist®. Please note Fraser Health is not receiving a large stock of Flumist this year so you may not receive your full request.
- **Fluzone® High-Dose:** Fluzone® High-Dose is publicly funded (free) for those living in Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities. Public Health will provide the vaccine product directly to Long Term Care facilities – you do not have to order it. Community Vaccine Providers may order vaccine for Assisted Living facilities or for clients who live in Assisted Living. Please contact the facility to determine whether to order it. Fluzone® High-Dose is also available to buy from some pharmacies and travel clinics for those 65 years and older not living in facilities – this is not part of the vaccine supply distributed through public health and pharmacies/travel clinics/GPs need to procure their own product for private pay use.
- **Community mass clinics:** We have sent a communication to Divisions of Family Practice about organizing mass immunization clinics in their communities. We encourage all community vaccine providers to support such clinics, making vaccination more accessible for our population. If you are planning community clinics, please indicate the date and projected number of vaccinations when you order vaccine. Based on the schedule that we are set to receive vaccines from the province, we suggest that mass clinics be offered after Oct. 20 for adults and children, and after Oct. 30 for ages 65+.

Q & A with our Medical Health Officer

We know many of you may have questions for Public Health about this flu season. Two live question and answer session with the Public Health team are available on **Wednesday Sept. 30 or Friday Oct. 2 from 8-9am**. Sign-in details will be provided next week.