We would like to thank all community providers for your participation in the 2015-2016 influenza immunization program. A total of 1,146,569 doses of influenza vaccine have been administered in Alberta.

Physicians have administered 101,936 doses
Community pharmacists have administered 475,331 doses
Public Health have administered 437,701 doses
AHS Non-Public Health have administered 66,603 doses
Other Non- AHS Providers have administered 56,384 doses
First Nation and Inuit Health Branch have administered 8,614 doses

Activities continue across the province towards full implementation of the AVCC policy for September 2016. Your clinic/facility may have received a letter or phone call from your Zone Contact regarding your cold chain storage equipment (e.g., fridge and/or minimum maximum thermometer). Please ensure you address the items required to become compliant outlined in the letter/phone call. All cold chain equipment must be up to policy standards in order to continue to receive provincially funded vaccines after September 30, 2016. If you have any questions call your Zone Contact.

Temperature monitoring and documentation has been a long standing requirement for storage of provincially funded vaccine. As such, all refrigerators where provincially funded vaccine is stored must have at least a separate/independent minimum and maximum thermometer for temperature monitoring. A minimum, maximum and current temperature must be recorded twice daily for each refrigerator storing vaccines even if chart recorders, data loggers, alarm systems or back up power are used.

As part of the AVCC policy implementation Alberta Health Services will provide training/orientation for all vaccine providers. In order to meet this requirement AHS will be introducing an on-line Vaccine Storage and Handling Course. The goals of the on-line learning course are to help vaccine providers recognize the importance of cold chain, understand implications of a cold chain break, apply recommended vaccine storage and handling practices, and take immediate action in the event of a temperature excursion or light exposure.

As of May 26, 2016 there have been:
- 3720 lab confirmed cases of Influenza A
- 1602 lab confirmed cases of Influenza B
- 1681 Albertans hospitalized with confirmed Influenza
- 62 Albertans died from confirmed Influenza.

The anticipated start date for the 2016-2017 Influenza Immunization Program will be October 24, 2016 pending vaccine availability.

The influenza strains that will be included in the vaccines for 2016-2017 are:
- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines contain two influenza B viruses, the above three viruses and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.