

# Influenza Immunization Program Update

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## Influenza Program Update

Alberta's Influenza Immunization Program provides publicly funded influenza vaccine for all individuals six months and older who live, work, visit or attend school in Alberta.

Outreach influenza immunization services for high-risk Albertans will begin this fall as Zones receive influenza vaccine. The public influenza program will begin the week of October 18, 2021.

Alberta Health Services Public Health is focusing immunization efforts on those at greatest risk of influenza who are unable to access influenza vaccine through pharmacists, physicians or other community providers. Individuals five years of age and older, are encouraged to get immunized at their local pharmacy or physician's office.

This year, community physicians participating in the influenza immunization program will receive vaccine from the wholesale distributor, Accuristix in collaboration with Alberta Health (AH), and order through the Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) system. This process is similar to the one used for ordering COVID-19.

Influenza vaccine will continue to be distributed to pharmacies through Pharmacy Wholesale Distributors (PWD) in collaboration with AH.

For other community providers, in order to receive influenza vaccine:

- The *Influenza Vaccine Provider Registration Form* and planning and resource documents are available on the Alberta Health Services website; they can be accessed on the website at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/influenza/Page12438.aspx> or the registration form may be faxed to your site by your Zone Contact. The *Influenza Vaccine Provider Registration Form* contains a request for vaccine storage information. This section must be completed and then the form can be submitted by fax or email to your Zone Contact.
- You will receive confirmation of program enrolment through the *2021-2022 Medical Officer of Health Influenza Immunization Program Letter*. This letter will outline all aspects of the 2021-2022 program. Influenza vaccine order sets will be added to the vaccine inventory system, AVI, as providers are accepted.

## Influenza Vaccine and Reporting for the 2021-2022 Program

Each year, AH (the provincial Ministry of Health) selects vaccine on the basis of effectiveness data, National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations, epidemiological data, product usage and interchangeability, procurement and budgetary considerations. Based on the review AH has purchased the following vaccines for this season's publicly funded program:

- Quadrivalent influenza vaccines are available for all persons 6 months to 64 years of age.
- Quadrivalent Fluzone® High Dose will be available for all persons 65 years of age and older.

Reporting of influenza doses administered must be submitted electronically, either system to system from source electronic medical record to the provincial immunization repository or through the Immunization Direct Submission Mechanism (IDSM) within 7 days of administration.

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