

Influenza Program Update

The Influenza Immunization Program for 2018-2019 is well underway. As of January 26, 2019 **1,257,216 doses of influenza vaccine** have been administered in Alberta. Thank you for your support of the Alberta Influenza Immunization Program.

Influenza data for the 2018-2019 season is reported on a weekly basis. Data includes: number of doses of influenza vaccine administered by provider type across the province, number of laboratory confirmed cases of influenza, number of Albertans hospitalized with influenza disease and number of Albertans deceased who had lab confirmed influenza. Community providers can find this information on the Alberta Health Services (AHS) website:

http://public.tableau.com/views/AlbertaHealthServicesRespiratoryVirusSurveillance/Summary?:embed=y&:display_count=yes

As of January 26, 2019:

Alberta Health Services Public Health have provided 324,140 doses.

Community Pharmacists have provided 712,742 doses

Other Providers (includes AHS Non–Public Health sites, Long Term Care sites, Community Physicians, Alberta Health Services Workplace Health and Safety, Covenant Health Occupational Health and Safety and First Nation Inuit Health Branch) have provided 220,334 doses.

Remaining Doses of Influenza Vaccine

The zone contacts have been receiving many calls asking what to do with “left over” influenza vaccine. The influenza program does not end until March 31, 2019. Please keep vaccine in cold chain and available for clients and patients. Further direction will be provided in the next program update regarding return or disposal at the end of the program.

Immunization Regulation

There is a NEW law in Alberta – the Public Health Act, Immunization Regulation!

Alberta Health (AH) introduced new requirements that standardize immunization practices, for all vaccines, regardless of whether a vaccine is provincially funded or privately purchased.

- As of December 17, 2018 any Health Care Practitioner (HCP) who becomes aware of an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) for all vaccines, must report the event to AHS within 3 days of becoming aware. The AHS Province-wide Immunization Program has created the **Centralized AEFI Team** who will respond to and follow-up on reports received from HCPs in all zones related to AEFI.
An online reporting form is available at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page16187.aspx>
If unable to complete the form, call 1-855-444-2324 (1-855-444-CDCI).
- As of December 17, 2018 the Immunization Regulation outlines requirements for all persons who participate in and/or direct the storage, handling and transportation of vaccines.
- As of January 1, 2021 HCPs are required to report immunizations and assessments electronically to AH within 7 days. More information is being developed by AH for HCPs on how to report this information.

Zone Contacts

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