

**Communicable Disease Update:
Influenza Vaccine in Acute Care – 2017-2018 in Alberta**

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities
Together.

From the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Edmonton Zone, Dr. Christopher Sikora

October 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Over the next few months influenza will enter our communities and result in illness, hospitalizations and deaths. Influenza activity is currently low in Alberta, however, this will change.

The 2017/2018 influenza vaccines for the Northern hemisphere contain the following antigenic strains:

- A/Michigan/45/2015California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like strain
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine only)

Immunization remains the cornerstone of influenza prevention, along with good hand washing and respiratory hygiene. Influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for those individuals at high risk for severe influenza or its complications.

Influenza vaccine is available for your hospitalized patients by ordering it through the hospital pharmacy. Therefore, we ask that you consider ordering vaccine, especially in the following situations:

- For inpatients if they are unlikely to access vaccine after discharge from hospital.
- For longer stay inpatients such as psychiatric patients and those individuals awaiting placement in long term care facilities.
- For those children with chronic conditions that require long or frequent admissions.

Information about current respiratory viruses circulating in Alberta is available on the AHS surveillance website at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/Page13524.aspx>.

For Public Health immunization clinic locations, dates and times, see:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.asp>

If you have further questions, please contact the Edmonton Zone Medical Officer of Health at 780-342-0202 during business hours and at 780-433-3940 after hours, on weekends and holidays.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Christopher Sikora, MD MPH MSc CCFP FRCP(C)
Lead Medical Officer of Health – Edmonton Zone