

October 2017

Dear Colleague:

Re: Influenza Vaccine Program 2017-2018

We appreciate your support of this year's influenza immunization program.

Who is eligible for influenza vaccine:

- All individuals over 6 months of age who live, work or go to school in Alberta.
- **We strongly encourage you and your staff to be immunized.**

What is new for the influenza vaccine program:

- **Two influenza vaccines: Fluzone®** - quadrivalent vaccine for individuals 6 months of age and older, including pregnant women; and **Fluad®** - trivalent vaccine (administered by AHS) available for individuals 65 years of age and older who reside in congregate living facilities. Further details are in the full version of this letter at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp>
- **Cold Chain requirements:** The Alberta Vaccine Cold Chain (AVCC) Policy April 2017 requires ALL vaccine providers, e.g., AHS Public Health, community physicians, community pharmacists, etc. to meet the conditions of the policy: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AIP-Vaccine-Cold-Chain-Policy-2017.pdf>

Reminder:

- **Egg Allergic Persons** - Egg-allergic individuals may be immunized using any influenza vaccine (inactivated or live attenuated) without a prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose of vaccine, irrespective of a past severe reaction to egg. Egg-allergic vaccine recipients should be kept under observation for 30 minutes following administration of influenza vaccine.

Where and When is immunization available:

- Influenza immunization clinics for the Public will begin October 23, 2017 at designated sites. Clinic locations and times are available from Health Link Alberta or visit <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Influenza.asp>.
- Children 6 months up to and including 8 years of age will be immunized by AHS Public Health. Public Health will also coordinate immunization for patients and residents in acute care facilities, seniors' centres, lodges and assisted living sites.

If you are interested in administering influenza and/or pneumococcal vaccine in your office, Alberta Health Services (AHS) requires all Community Providers, including physicians, to sign the 2017-2018 Influenza Vaccine Registration Form in order to receive vaccine. The Form and supporting documents are available by contacting Kylie Pilfold at 780-830-3503 or for download at www.albertahealthservices.ca/2824.asp

How and When to Report Adverse Events:

- Adverse events temporally associated with seasonal influenza vaccine should be reported to your local Public Health Centre - severe reactions (e.g., anaphylaxis) within 24 hours and all other reactions within 1 week.

How and When to Use Antivirals:

AHS NZ specific information on prophylaxis for influenza outbreaks in health care or congregate living facilities is available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/Page14478.aspx>, under the Outbreak Management section.

If you have any questions about the influenza vaccine program, please contact your local Public Health Centre, or call Kylie Pilfold at 780 830-3503.

This letter and the full detailed version of the letter are posted on: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp>

Sincerely,

North Zone Medical Officers of Health