

**FLU VACCINE 2020-21**

**ORDERING FLU VACCINE AND DISTRIBUTION**

**DATE: September 14, 2019**

**TO: Health Care Provider Immunizers**

**FROM:** **Stacey Dunphy RN, MHSc. Provincial Biological Depot Scientific & System Performance.**

Dear Health Care Provider:

The Nova Scotia Health Authority is finalizing the 2020-21 Influenza Vaccine Distribution Plans. Included in this memo are some details regarding this year’s influenza vaccine that may help you with your clinic planning. Without the support of local health care providers, the success of the influenza immunization program would be reduced and we would like to extend our sincerest thank you for your ongoing efforts in promoting the importance of yearly influenza immunization.

The publicly funded flu vaccine program is available for all Nova Scotians that are 6 months of age and older.

As in previous years, Nova Scotia will be offering an inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (11V4-SD). The flu vaccines that will be used are Fluzone™ Quadrivalent (Sanofi), FluLaval™ Tetra (Glaxo Smith Kline) and Afluria® Tetra (Sequirus). Afluria® Tetra QIV MDV is **for use in those aged 5 years and older.**  Public Health staff will be placing a neon sticker on every 10 dose box **‘5 years and older ONLY’**, to minimize the risk of administering Afluria® Tetra to a child under 5. The product monographs for the flu vaccines are available at the following links:

1. Flulaval® Tetra <https://ca.gsk.com/media/1681764/2020-2021-flulaval-tetra-pm-en.pdf>
2. Fluzone® Quad <http://products.sanofi.ca/en/fluzone-qiv.pdf>
3. Afluria® Tetra<https://rxa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Afluria-Tetra-Monograph-2020-2021.pdf>

The bio-depot will be receiving deliveries of flu vaccine during October. As in previous years, we do not receive all of our vaccine supply on a single date, but receive our allocation over a period of time, therefore to ensure equal distribution across the province, orders will be filled based on supply available for distribution. This year, Nova Scotia is expecting to receive more influenza vaccine than in previous years, therefore there is no anticipated supply issue known at this time.

Your first order of flu vaccine can be placed anytime (using the order form attached) and faxed to **481-5923.** The order form can also be emailed to publichealthvaccineorders@nshealth.ca .***The order form is an attachment to this message for care providers.***

 **Influenza Vaccine 2020/2021 Strains:**

A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus

A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus

B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus from B/Yamagata lineage

B/Washington/02/2019-like virus from B/Victoria lineage

***Flu Vaccine Deliveries for CZ first orders***

**October 13, 2020 – Halifax, Windsor**

**October 14, 2020 – Dartmouth, Cole Harbor**

**October 15, 2020 - Timberlea, Hammonds Plains, Tantallon, Eastern Shore**

**October 16, 2020 – Bedford, Sackville, Fall River**

**Recommended Influenza Vaccine Doses by Age: 2020-21**

Please note the dose for influenza vaccine is 0.5 ml for all age groups. This information may differ from the product monograph. Nova Scotia has based its recommendations on the current National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) statement <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2020-2021.html>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Dose** | **No. of Doses**  |
| 9 years and older | 0.5 ml | 1 |
| 6 months-8years\* | 0.5 ml | 1 or 2\* |

1. Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age receiving seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time should be given two doses, with a minimum interval of four weeks between doses. Children less than 9 years who have been previously immunized with one or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine are to receive one dose of influenza vaccine each year thereafter. The seasonal influenza vaccine is not licensed or recommended for infants less than 6 months of age.

**Vaccine Ordering and Vaccine Safety**

We will be shipping flu vaccine starting the week of **October 13, 2020**. ***The order form is an attachment to this message for care providers.***

1. Public Health adjust orders based on historical ordering, flu returns and the allocated amount we have received, ensuring everyone receives an equitable amount across the province.
2. Order only flu vaccine that you are certain will be used. You may order additional flu vaccine as often as required, keeping in mind that unused vaccine cannot be returned to Public Health.
3. Providers picking-up their flu vaccine at public health must have a hard sided cooler which seals tightly, ice pack and an insulation layer to ensure the ice does not directly contact the vaccine product.
4. Flu season is also storm season. Please ensure you have a back-up plan for urgent storage of vaccine in case of a power outage. The Public Health depot can be considered for use in your back-up plan. Pre-planning is required to contact the public health depot during regular business hours (0830-1630) at 902-481-5813.
5. Multi-dose vialswill be distributed this year. Public health does not supply syringes or needles.
6. Maintain vaccine at the proper temperature **(+2C – +8C**) in a refrigerator/cooler that is monitored using a high-low thermometer.
7. Refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada resource ‘National Vaccine Storage & Handling Guidelines for Immunizers’ for questions regarding storage and handling of vaccine:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/national-vaccine-storage-handling-guidelines-immunization-providers-2015.html>

**More Information on Influenza Vaccine Clinics during COVID-19**

For more information on influenza vaccine clinics during COVID-19, you may check the following websites:

Guidance for influenza Vaccine delivery in the presence of Covid (2020). NACI: Statements and publications at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-influenza-vaccine-delivery-covid-19.html#a31>

CDC Guidelines Considerations for curbside/drive-thru immunization clinics at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/curbside-vaccination-clinics.html>

New South Wales Guidelines (2020) for screening clinics (drop-through and pop-up) at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/clinics-guidelines.aspx>

If you have questions about this year’s influenza immunization program, please feel free to contact the bio-depot at 481-5813 for assistance. Attached with this letter is the 2020-21 Influenza Bio-depot Order Form.

Sincerely,



Stacey Dunphy RN BScN MHSc Stacey.dunphy@nshealth.ca

Immunization Coordinator, Scientific & System Performance