



Final  
Sept. 25, 2009

## **Q&As on delaying seasonal flu vaccine programs.**

### **Q1. What kind of research or peer reviews are underway to confirm the BC CDC research findings?**

The Public Health Agency of Canada has asked an international panel of experts to review the study. Additionally,, the study is being reviewed by experts as part of a peer review process for a scientific journal that may be interested in publishing the study.

### **Q2. When will you know for sure if the seasonal flu vaccine should not be given this year?**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), which is made up of public health experts from across the country, makes recommendations every year on seasonal flu vaccine.

NACI is reviewing the latest scientific evidence and will make a recommendation in the coming days to the CPHO on which populations would benefit most by seasonal flu vaccine.

Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for delivering vaccine programs. Each province / territory will decide how seasonal flu vaccine will be administered in its jurisdiction.

### **Q3. Will the federal government/PHAC issue new guidelines on seasonal flu vaccine? If so, when?**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), which is made up of public health experts from across the country, makes recommendations every year on seasonal flu vaccine.

NACI is reviewing the latest scientific evidence and will make a recommendation in the coming days to the CPHO on which populations would benefit most by seasonal flu vaccine. PHAC will communicate those recommendations.

Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for delivering vaccine programs. Each province / territory will decide how seasonal flu vaccine will be administered in its jurisdiction.



**Q4. On what basis are some provinces cancelling or modifying their seasonal flu campaigns? Are they being premature?**

Some of the factors that have been raised around changing the approach for seasonal flu vaccine have included:

- the Canadian research, currently under peer review, that suggest a possible association between prior seasonal influenza vaccination and the risk of acquiring pandemic H1N1 disease;
- the possibility of an early fall wave of H1N1 flu;
- the timing of H1N1 vaccine availability (as early as mid-October) and the impact of having seasonal and pandemic H1N1 campaigns occurring simultaneously; and
- the strains of influenza that are currently circulating.

Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for delivering vaccine programs. Each province / territory will decide how seasonal flu vaccine will be administered in its jurisdiction. For information about each approach, contact each province/territory.