

TO: Administrators/Directors of Care/Infection Control Staff in
Long-term Care Homes and Retirement Residences



FROM: Karly Jessup, Public Health Nurse

RE: **Preparing for the 2014/2015 Universal Influenza Immunization Program**

DATE: September 22, 2014

In preparation for the influenza season 2014/2015, the following documents are available on the Health Unit website at www.pcchu.ca under *For Professionals / Health Professionals / Influenza*

- [Outbreak check-list for long-term care facility](#)
- [Resident, Volunteers and Staff Vaccination List Form](#)
- [Volunteers, Visitors and Influenza Immunization Letter](#)
- [Labstrack: Documentation-- Criteria for Patient Specimen Acceptance](#)
- [Labstrack: Influenza and Other Respiratory Viral Testing Algorithm for Spring/Summer 2014 \(June 2, 2014 to October 31, 2014\)](#)
- [Fluad Influenza Vaccine Fact Sheet for Residents of Ontario's Long Term Care Homes 2011/2012](#)
- [Health Unit Influenza Vaccine Order for: Health Care Providers / Hospital / Retirement Residences](#)
- [Health Unit Influenza Vaccine Order for: Long-Term Care Facilities \(Nursing Homes only\)](#)
- [Prequalification for Retirement Homes](#)
- [Outbreak Control Measures for Long Term Care](#)
- [Respiratory Outbreak Line List Form](#)

Additional Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) documents for this year's influenza season are posted on our website at www.pcchu.ca and will be available on the MOHLTC website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/prequalification.aspx>

Nasopharyngeal Swabs: Nasopharyngeal swab kits for suspected cases will be provided when you pick up your vaccine order (or arrangements can be made to drop off kits to your facility). Please read the directions on storing these swabs and obtaining specimens. Before using the swab, check the expiry date on both swab and vial. Each package contains six swabs. Record the patient's name and birth date on the requisition form and on each vial. If this is an outbreak, record the outbreak number on the vial and on the requisition form. The swabs can be stored at room temperature. However, once used, they should be refrigerated until submitted to the Ontario Provincial Laboratory on Hospital Drive. For information on how to take a nasopharyngeal specimen, check the table of contents of the document titled, Control of Respiratory Outbreaks in Long Term Care Homes, Oct 2004, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Guidelines at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/pubhealth/lrc_respoutbreak/lrc_respoutbreak.pdf

Influenza Vaccine: The following vaccines will be supplied to us by the MOHLTC.

1. Fluviral® - produced by GlaxoSmithKline (trivalent inactivated vaccine in multi-dose vial)
2. Vaxigrip® - produced by Sanofi Pasteur (trivalent inactivated vaccine in multi-dose vial)
3. Agriflu® - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine in pre-loaded single dose syringes)
(Needles will need to be purchased to administer this vaccine.)

4. Fluzone®- produced by Sanofi Pasteur (trivalent inactivated vaccine in multi-dose vial)
5. Fludac® - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine with adjuvant targeted to individuals 65 years of age and older and available in Ontario for residents of Long-Term Care Homes)

Product monographs available on our website at www.pcchu.ca.

Again, this year the province of Ontario will be offering a vaccine with enhanced effectiveness among elderly individuals to residents living in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH). Fludac® is an **adjuvanted** trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine that is targeted to elderly populations 65 years of age and older. The vaccine comes in a pre-filled single dose syringe that is compatible with luer-lock needles. Fludac® should **not** be administered to the following groups:

- LTCH residents less than 65 years old;
- LTCH staff regardless of age;
- Retirement home residents or staff regardless of age; or to
- Community clients who attend any community clinics that may be offered by the LTCH.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Recommendations: The NACI *Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for 2014/2015* is available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/flu-grippe-eng.php> or at www.pcchu.ca.

The UIIP and Pneumococcal Immunization to High Risk Groups: There is considerable overlap in the indications for the influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. Because of this overlap, the annual influenza immunization program presents an excellent opportunity to immunize eligible persons who have not yet received one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. The pneumococcal vaccine may be administered concurrently with influenza vaccine, but at a separate anatomic site. All residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards are eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine as part of the high risk program.

Anaphylaxis: This information is included in the Canadian Immunization Guide (2006) which can be accessed at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p02-03-eng.php>.

Adverse Vaccine Reactions following Immunization: As required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, all adverse vaccine reactions need to be reported to the Health Unit using the [Ontario Adverse Event Following Immunization Form](#). Please reference our website for more information and copies of the form.

Cold Chain Inspections: All premises storing publicly-funded vaccines must be inspected at least once annually for adherence to the minimum requirements according to the MOHLTC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol. For a copy of this protocol, call the Health Unit or check the Health Unit website at www.pcchu.ca.

Vaccine Distribution: The Health Unit has received influenza vaccine. It is available for pick up September 23, 2014. Please complete our Flu Vaccine Order form and fax your temperature log to Zina Allen at (705)743-2897. Only order a one week supply – please allow 3 days to fill flu orders to ensure your order is ready on the pick-up date. The temperature log should indicate temperatures within the range of 2°C to 8°C for at least three days. If you cannot administer the vaccine within the next two weeks, please arrange a later date for vaccine pick-up to reduce the risk of losing vaccine in a cold chain failure. Please ensure sufficient space is

available to accommodate the vaccine order. If you require additional vaccine, submit another Flu Vaccine Order Form as required. Return spoiled or expired vaccines to the Health Unit under cold chain conditions.

Retirement Residences: Retirement residences are requested to ensure that residents aged 65 and older receive the flu vaccine. The Ministry of Health requires all Retirement Residences to follow a prequalification process in order to administer the seasonal flu vaccine. If you have not prequalified, you require a Health Care Agency that has prequalified to administer the flu vaccine. To receive a list of these agencies, call Zina at 743-1000 ext 283 or go to our website www.pcchu.ca.

Vaccine Clinics: Similar to last year, vaccine will be available at pharmacies and health care provider offices starting mid-October for the general public. One community clinic will be held in Millbrook. The Health Unit will hold clinics at 10 Hospital Drive on designated Saturdays in November to January for children under 5 years of age and others wishing to book an appointment. Clinic dates will be posted at www.pcchu.ca.

Influenza Immunization Clinic Reporting Requirements (Vaccine Utilization Report Form): Reporting the amount of vaccine administered at each LTCH or RR clinic is a vaccine inventory management measure required by the province of Ontario. This is not the same as reporting LTCH resident and staff immunization rates. LTCHs are required to report each dose of influenza vaccine administered to their vaccine supply source no later than 10 days after the immunization clinic was held. For non-reimbursable or reimbursable clinics the Vaccine Utilization Report must be submitted. Additional vaccine may not be released if adequate reporting is not received by the vaccine supply source.

Influenza Immunization Rate Reporting Requirements for LTCH Residents and Staff: As you are aware, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has been collecting seasonal influenza immunization rates for residents and staff of LTCHs since 1999 and for hospital staff since 2000. This is not the same as the aforementioned inventory management reporting requirements. Seasonal influenza immunization coverage rates are to be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health each year. At the provincial level, these results are compiled by the Public Health Division (PHD) in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the UIIP. These results are then reported from each Health Unit to the MOHLTC electronically using the web-based system developed for this purpose. Immunization coverage rates will be published in the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* once analysis has been completed. Similar to previous years, the Health Unit will also be publishing the rates on our website at www.pcchu.ca. The data collection forms for influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates at LTCHs in Ontario for the 2014/2015 influenza season will be forwarded at a later date to facilities.

Influenza Vaccine Training: The Health Unit will be holding a train the trainer session on **Monday September 22, 2014 at the Health Unit from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.** Also included will be information on outbreak control.

Questions...go to www.pcchu.ca or call (705)743-1000