

May 27, 2020

Dear Health Care Provider:

Encouraging all Manitobans to get their free seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine this upcoming fall is crucial not only for the control of seasonal influenza but is of the utmost importance as we prepare for potential co-circulation of COVID-19 in Manitoba.

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in changes to how we live our day to day lives. These changes are expected to continue well into the fall and winter months, and will need to be carried over into planning for the upcoming flu season. Health care providers are encouraged to begin thinking now about how they will immunize their patients this upcoming flu season, in light of the current public health measures that are expected to be in place. In general, the [workplace guidance](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/restoring-workplace-guidance.pdf) (https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/restoring-workplace-guidance.pdf) that was developed for business owners that were permitted to open as part of Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap to Recovery, also applies to health facilities and providers as they start planning for delivery of this year's flu vaccine, with supplementary advice to follow.

Historically speaking, manufacturers supplying Canada with flu vaccine have experienced shortages or delays in the delivery of their vaccines for various reasons, which are beyond the control of the provinces and territories, including Manitoba. To allow for sufficient time to deliver this year's flu vaccine to your facility/clinic, **do not schedule your immunization clinics before November 1st 2020.** As in previous years, health care providers are encouraged to start offering flu vaccine to their patients as soon as they receive product, even if prior to November 1st.

Please take this opportunity to return any unused flu vaccine from the 2019/20 flu season to the Provincial Distribution Warehouse using MHSAL's Return Policy and Procedure, available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

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