

July 15, 2020

## **RE: 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization Program**

### **Influenza Immunization Program**

All Manitobans 6 months of age and older will be eligible to receive the seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine free-of-charge for the upcoming 2020/21 influenza season.

Studies show that a recommendation from a health care provider on immunization is a major contributing factor in a person's decision to get immunized. As a result, health care providers are urged to recommend immunization against influenza as early as possible in the influenza season to all their clients.

Information on Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program including order forms (for vaccine and resources), factsheets, etc. can be found online at [www.manitoba.ca/flu](http://www.manitoba.ca/flu). The updated Interim Program Plan: Manitoba's 2020/21 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program will be posted in the coming weeks at [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/msiipp.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/msiipp.pdf).

### **Pneumococcal Immunization Program**

Individuals 65 years of age and older and those at increased risk for invasive pneumococcal disease are eligible to receive a dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) vaccine free-of-charge. For more details on the eligibility for this vaccine, and all other vaccines, please refer to Manitoba's *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded Vaccines* at: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html).

Please note that eligibility criteria for the Pneu-P-23 vaccine and Pneu-C-13 vaccine were updated in 2019, and a frequently asked questions and answers document for health care providers was developed and is available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/pneumofaq.pdf>.

### ***Did you know you could place your order via email?***

Fill out the *2020/21 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* online and email to [vacmda@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vacmda@gov.mb.ca) to avoid fax machine busy signals and have a record of exactly when you sent it.

## Flu and Pneu-P-23 Vaccine Ordering Process

All providers/facilities can place their flu and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine order between August 17 and September 11, 2020, using the *2020/21 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* ([www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution](http://www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution)). **Orders received prior to August 17<sup>th</sup> will NOT be accepted and will need to be resubmitted on, or after, August 17, 2020.**

**All flu/Pneu-P-23 vaccine orders will be shipped according to the following schedule:**

1. priority locations - including hospitals, long-term care facilities and First Nations communities
2. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 4, 5 or 6
3. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 7, 8 or 9
4. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3
5. providers/facilities that order **after 4 p.m. on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Influenza vaccine will begin shipping based on the above schedule when product arrives in Manitoba. Flu vaccines are distributed to all Canadian jurisdictions over a period of several weeks to months, starting mid to late September.

Any delays from the manufacturers or Health Canada during their regulatory processes can affect the timing of product arriving in Manitoba and shipments to health care providers.

All providers/facilities **MUST** order based on the amount administered and reported last season to reduce wastage. **Failure to reconcile vaccine doses ordered and administered as per Manitoba's Immunization Registry may result in providers/facilities receiving fewer doses than ordered.** It is therefore critical that all doses of flu vaccine that are administered be reported to MHSAL. **Flu vaccine wastage should be less than 10% at the end of the season.** Subsequent orders can be placed (at no penalty to the provider/facility), while supplies last.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) may request that health care providers submit an update of available influenza vaccine doses each week. This will allow MHSAL to identify to the public where influenza vaccine is available.

### Influenza Product Updates for 2020/21:

**NEW: Afluria® Tetra** - available in pre-filled syringes as well as multi-dose vial format. Age indication is **5 years of age and older**. As such, please indicate on the order form what percentage of your total doses you are able to accept with this age indication in the space provided.

**FluMist® Nasal Spray** – for the 2020/21 influenza season, Manitoba will not be offering influenza nasal spray vaccine as part of Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Program. Supply may be available in the private market where a prescription would be required.

**All future updates pertaining to flu vaccine distribution/supply including shortages, delays and approx. dates when all providers/facilities should expect to receive their flu vaccine shipment, will be posted online at [www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution](http://www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution).**

Sincerely,

*"Original signed by"*

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