

**Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer**

September 23, 2021

**Primary Care Provider Influenza Letter**

Influenza vaccination is of critical importance this season because of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination will help reduce the impact on the health care system. **Please stress the importance of influenza vaccination with your high risk patients and healthcare colleagues, as well as those who are in direct, regular contact with medically high risk individuals.**

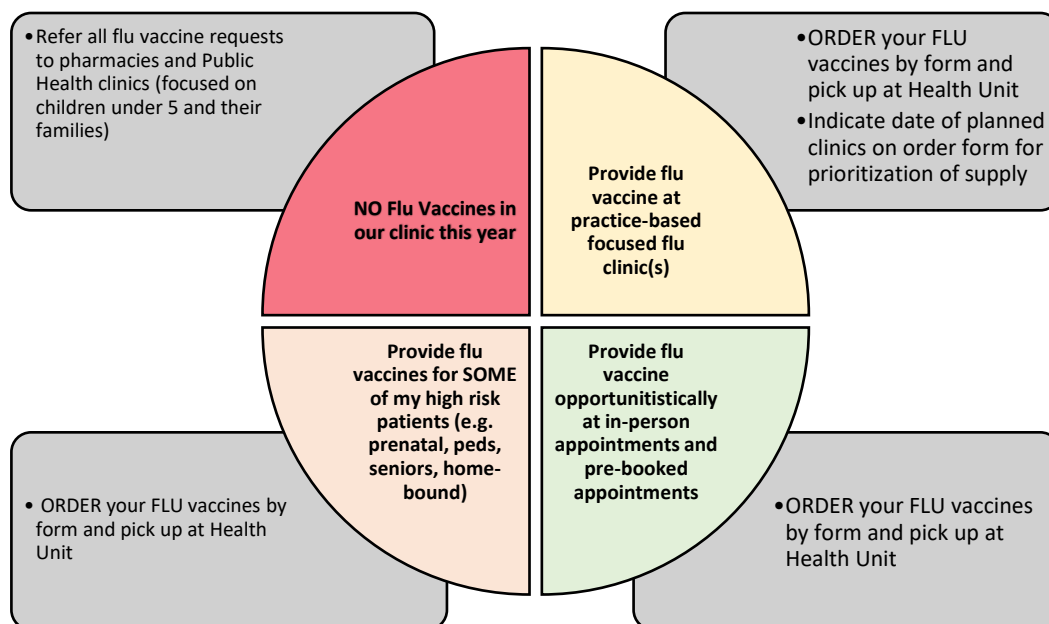
**The Public can Access Influenza Vaccine in the Following Ways:**

Location	Population Focus	Clinic locator
Public Health	Providing influenza vaccine to children 6 months to 5 years and their families.	Island Health <a href="#">Where can I get a flu shot?</a>
Community Pharmacies	Providing influenza to youth, adults, seniors and Flumist® to children at 2 years and other influenza vaccines to children 5 years and up.	Find a flu clinic: Use <a href="#">Immunize BC's Flu Clinic Finder</a> to find a location near you.
Primary Care Providers	Providing influenza vaccine to all eligible patients	Find a flu clinic: Use <a href="#">Immunize BC's Flu Clinic Finder</a> to find a location near you.

Please feel free to share the above information with your patients inquiring about influenza vaccine.

Primary care providers are encouraged to work with their local Division of Family Practice to promote access to influenza immunization and coordinate with local Public Health Units to order vaccines for their practices. We recognize that primary care providers currently have varied levels of capacity to provide influenza vaccine to their patients, and support any of the options outlined in the graphic below. Public Health will continue to supply influenza vaccine to primary care providers who order flu vaccine. This year pharmacists will receive vaccine directly through BCCDC and the BC Pharmacy Association.

**Options for Influenza Vaccine Administration for Primary Care Providers**



**NORTH ISLAND**

**250.331.8591**

Charmaine Enns  
MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
355 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

**CENTRAL ISLAND**

**250.739.6304**

Mike Benusic  
MD, MPH, FRCPC  
3<sup>RD</sup> Floor 6475 Metral Drive  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

**COWICHAN REGION**

**250.850.2100**

**LOC. 45528**

Shannon Waters  
MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
675 Canada Ave  
Duncan, BC V9L 1T9

**SOUTH ISLAND**

**250.519.3406**

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430 – 1900 Richmond Ave.  
Victoria, BC V8R 4R2

**AFTER HOURS ON CALL**

**1.800.204.6166**

The Provincial Influenza campaign starts in mid-October. Community Vaccine Providers can start placing orders the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>, with expected distribution week of October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Eligibility:** This is the current eligibility as of 20 Sept 2021. This may change. Please see [BCCDC](https://www.bccdc.ca) website for most current eligibility criteria.

Currently, there are no changes to eligibility criteria for the 2021-2022 season. Influenza vaccine is recommended for everybody, and provided free to individuals at high risk of influenza complications as well as those in contact with people at high risk including:

- Children 6-59 months of age
- People 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women
- People 5-64 years of age with underlying chronic health conditions
- Health care workers
- Visitors to health care facilities
- Essential community service providers

Product	Publicly Funded Intended Age Group	Format	Expected Distribution Date
<b>FluLaval® Tetra</b> (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended for use in eligible individuals 6 months of age and older, including those with contraindications to LAIV-Q</li> </ul>	Multi-dose vial	Week of October 12th (start placing orders week of Oct 4th)
<b>FluZone®</b> (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended for use in eligible individuals 6 months of age and older, including those with contraindications to LAIV-Q.</li> </ul>	Multi-dose vial and pre-filled syringe	Week of October 12th (start placing orders week of Oct 4th)
<b>Afluria Tetra®</b> (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended for use in eligible individuals 5 years of age and older, including those with contraindications to LAIV-Q.</li> </ul>	Multi-dose vial	Week of November 8 <sup>th</sup> (start placing orders week of Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> )
<b>FluMist®</b> (LAIV Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible individuals 2-17 years of age (inclusive)</li> <li>• Not approved for those younger than 2 years or older than 59 years</li> </ul>	Intranasal	Week of October 12th (start placing orders week of Oct 4th)
<b>FluZone® High-Dose</b> (Quadrivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals ≥65 years <b>and</b> living in long term care/assisted living facilities or living in First Nations communities</li> </ul>	Pre-filled syringe	This vaccine will not be available at Public Health Clinics and orders will only be for providers administering vaccine to the intended age group.
<p><b>Influenza Vaccine Strains (All publicly funded influenza vaccines available this season are quadrivalent)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (NEW strain this year)</li> <li>• A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus (NEW strain this year)</li> <li>• B/Washington/02/2019 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and</li> <li>• B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus</li> </ul>			

**Health Unit Ordering and Distribution Plan:**

Our goal is to distribute the influenza vaccine in an equitable, timely and reasonable manner to all providers. Public Health receives regular shipments of influenza vaccine from BCCDC from October through December. These shipments arrive with an initial shipment of approximately 50% of the overall allotment for all providers followed by smaller allotments in subsequent weeks. Community vaccine providers can expect their flu vaccine to be allocated in the same way.

For your **first order**, request only quantities of vaccine you anticipate needing for the first two weeks. **Subsequent orders** can be placed as needed. Doses on hand **must** be recorded on the order form. If you are holding a large flu immunization clinic, include the details on the Influenza Vaccine Order Form including the clinic date and expected doses needed. **Public Health is not responsible to follow-up with providers who place incomplete orders. Forms with incomplete information including doses on hand will result in orders not being filled.**

Influenza vaccine will be distributed based on available supply. If an ordered vaccine is no longer available, another equivalent product will be supplied. If no influenza vaccine or acceptable substitute is available, submit another order for additional vaccine or for a different available product. **Orders will NOT be backfilled.**

**Resources:**

- [Influenza Information & Forms for Community Vaccine Providers](#)
- [Order Form for Pneumococcal and other Publicly Funded Vaccines](#)
- [Immunization Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)

In health,



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