



Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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September 3, 2013

Health Care Provider:

Re: Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization Program 2013-14

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (“the flu”):

The seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine for 2013-14 provides active immunization against three influenza strains. It is important for everyone to get the flu shot every year.

The flu vaccine is **available to all Manitobans over 6 months of age at no charge**; however, immunization is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from influenza, their caregivers and close contacts. This includes:

- Seniors aged 65 or older
- Residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities
- Children six months to five years of age
- Those with chronic illness, such as:
 - An immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
 - A condition that makes it difficult to breathe
 - Children 6 months to adolescents 18 years of age on long-term acetylsalicylic acid (i.e. aspirin) therapy
 - Other chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, mental disabilities)
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers and first responders
- Individuals of Aboriginal ancestry
- People who are severely overweight or obese
- Or as determined by your primary health care provider

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) Vaccine:

- This vaccine is available at no charge to all Manitobans age 65 or older and those at most risk for invasive pneumococcal disease. For Manitoba Health’s eligibility criteria for vaccines offered free-of-charge, please visit:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.
- Manitoba Health is mailing letters to those individuals who have turned 65 in the last year who have not received their Pneu-P-23 immunization (excludes those who live in a personal care home). For this year, approximately 11,000 Manitobans 65 years of age will be receiving a letter late-September.
- Routine re-immunization is **NOT** recommended. Please refer to the product monograph and/or *The Canadian Immunization Guide* for more detailed information at
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-eng.php>.

Vaccine Orders:

- Orders for vaccines can be placed by completing the order form available online at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf.
- Influenza orders will be shipped once product arrives in Manitoba. Please indicate the date(s) of your clinic(s), if applicable, in the comments area of the order form to ensure timely delivery. All personal care homes and hospitals should place their orders as soon as possible.
- The majority of Manitoba's influenza vaccine will consist of Fluviral® in 10 dose vials and a small amount of Thimerosal-free Agriflu® in single dose, pre-filled syringes that come in packages of 10 syringes.

Resources:

'Get the shot, not the flu! Protect yourself. Protect your friends and family' updated resources (including factsheets, posters and brochures) are now available online and can also be ordered free-of-charge from the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA), and accessed online at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html.

The **National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI's) Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2013-14** will soon be available on the Public Health Agency of Canada's website at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php.

Adverse events following immunization should be reported to Manitoba Health through regional public health using the online form at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi_form.pdf.

The *updated* **Seasonal Influenza Protocol** to guide the management of influenza cases will be available in the fall and accessible online at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control