

Health

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Health Care Provider:

RE: 2013-14 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Supply

Based on currently available epidemiologic data for 2013-14, Manitoba is experiencing a typical influenza season with no signals indicating increased severity. However, unprecedented late demand for seasonal influenza vaccine is producing delays in processing and shipping vaccine. Manitoba has distributed its complete 2013-14 seasonal supply of Agriflu® and Fluviral® to health care providers across the province.

Given the ongoing demand for seasonal flu vaccine, Manitoba has been and continues to work with the Public Health Agency of Canada and all other provinces and territories to procure additional doses. Vaccine production for the northern hemisphere, including Canada, by vaccine manufacturers is based on forecasted uptake, and production does not occur throughout the entire flu season. Any doses and products introduced at this point represent unallocated global supply. This will result in a different vaccine product mix in Manitoba that will change week to week and may eventually be exhausted. As such, for the week of January 20th we anticipate availability of the live attenuated intranasal vaccine (LAIV) FluMist® for use in children 2 to 17 years of age, and healthy adults 18-59 years of age without chronic health conditions.

If you have placed an order for seasonal influenza vaccine that has not been filled, your office will be receiving a phone call from Manitoba Health to review the outstanding order and determine an appropriate product mix.

Detailed information on FluMist® will be available shortly. Health care providers are reminded that no new product for 6 to 23 month olds or, 60+ year olds will likely be available for the week of January 20th but product suitable for these age groups should be available the week of January 27th. If a health care provider is waiting for vaccine and has a patient/client for whom the wait is unacceptable, please have them contact their local public health office.

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

Sincerely,



Richard Baydack, PhD
A/Director, Communicable Disease Control



Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC,
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control