

# **Manitoba's Interim Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program Plan 2021-22**

**November 2021\***

Manitoba Health and Seniors Care  
Population Health Division  
Population and Public Health Branch

\* Subject to change; please go to [www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/pro.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/pro.html) to access the most current version.

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## Acronyms

<b>ACIP</b>	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
<b>AEFI</b>	Adverse event following immunization
<b>CI</b>	Confidence interval
<b>DPIN</b>	Drug Programs Information Network
<b>GBS</b>	Guillain-Barré syndrome
<b>IIV</b>	Inactivated influenza vaccine
<b>ILI</b>	Influenza-like illness
<b>ISC</b>	Indigenous Services Canada
<b>LAIV</b>	Live attenuated influenza vaccine
<b>LTCF</b>	Long-term care facility
<b>MDV</b>	Multi-dose vial
<b>MHSC</b>	Manitoba Health and Seniors Care
<b>MOH</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>NACI</b>	National Advisory Committee on Immunization
<b>ORS</b>	Oculo-respiratory syndrome
<b>PDW</b>	Provincial Distribution Warehouse
<b>PFS</b>	Pre-filled syringe
<b>PHIMS</b>	Public Health Information Management System
<b>PHIN</b>	Personal health identification number
<b>PVAC</b>	Provincial Vaccine Advisory Committee
<b>RCT</b>	Randomized controlled trial
<b>SDO</b>	Service Delivery Organization
<b>VE</b>	Vaccine effectiveness
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

## Purpose

The purpose of this Program Plan is to provide **all** health care providers and Service Delivery Organizations (SDOs) , including Indigenous Services Canada, that participate in Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program, with the provincial program details for the upcoming 2021-22 influenza (flu) season.

## 2021-22 Program Dates

- **February 2021:** World Health Organization released the recommended strains for the 2021-22 northern hemisphere influenza vaccines in February. The strains recommended were based on egg-based or cell-based or recombinant vaccines that match the expected vaccines to be available in Manitoba.
- **May 1:** The National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI's) "*Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2021-22*" is posted on the Government of Canada, National Advisory Committee on Immunization website at: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2021-2022/naci-2021-2022-statement.pdf>.
- **August 3 - September 3:** Health care providers can place their first order for this year's flu vaccine. Orders will be collected and shipped once product arrives in Manitoba (late September). Shipment will follow a schedule based on priority locations and then based on client ID (more detail provided below under "Vaccine Distribution"). For more information on the provincial delivery of the flu vaccine, go to: [www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/distribution.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/distribution.html).
- **August 25:** The updated provincial "seasonal flu" website, ([www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html)) will go live. Updated print materials including promotional/educational resources (e.g. factsheet, poster, brochure, etc.) and order forms will be posted on the seasonal flu website when updated.
- **September 13** Deadline for health care providers and SDOs to submit their clinic dates, times and locations for inclusion on the Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (MHSC) website and/or through Health Links–Info Santé. Please email information to: [Vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Vaccines@gov.mb.ca).
- **October 18:** MHSC will mail the annual pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 (Pneu-P-23) reminder letter to people who have turned 65 years of age in the past year.
- **October 22:** Launch of the provincial 2021-22 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program advertising campaign.

## Provincial Eligibility Criteria and Recommendations for Use

For the 2021-22 season, seasonal flu vaccine is available free-of-charge to all Manitobans aged six months and older, and is especially important for individuals at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, their caregivers and close contacts, including:

- people 65 years of age and older
- residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities (LTCFs)
- children six to 59 months of age
- individuals with the following chronic health conditions:
  - an immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment (e.g. cancer)
  - cardiac or pulmonary disorders (e.g. cystic fibrosis, asthma)
  - long-term acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin<sup>®</sup>) therapy (for those between six months and 18 years of age *only*)
  - neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions including neuromuscular, neurovascular, neurodegenerative and seizure disorders (and, for children, including febrile seizures and isolated developmental delay), but excluding migraines and psychiatric conditions without neurological conditions
  - diabetes and other metabolic diseases
  - renal disease
  - anemia or hemoglobinopathy
  - obesity (body mass index  $\geq 40$ )
- pregnant individuals
- health care workers and first responders
- regular caregivers of children up to five years of age
- household contacts of anyone at increased risk of serious illness from the flu including those with infants under six months of age and/or expecting a newborn
- Indigenous peoples

**International students and out-of-province visitors continue to be eligible to receive the flu vaccine free-of-charge regardless of third-party insurance and/or Manitoba Health and Seniors Care coverage.**

All doses administered including to those without a Personal Health Identification Number (PHIN) from MHSC are to be reported to MHSC. See Documentation section below on the ways to report the administered doses.

Provide as much information on the person being immunized as possible (e.g. name, date of birth, province or location of residence, health number from place of residence). Completed forms are to be submitted to the location indicated on the forms.

Children younger than nine years of age who have NEVER received a flu vaccine need two doses, at least four weeks apart. As per NACI, Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age who have been properly vaccinated with one or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine in any previous season should receive 1 dose of influenza vaccine per season thereafter.

Several studies have looked at whether these two initial doses need to be given in the same season. It appears that for children 6-23 months, similar immunogenicity was found whether the 2 doses were given in the same or separate season when there was no change or only minor vaccine strain change in the vaccine formulation between seasons. When there is a major B lineage change between seasons the seroprotection rates were considerably reduced. Because children 6-23 months of age are less likely to have had prior priming exposure to an influenza virus, special effort is warranted to ensure that a two-dose schedule is followed for previously unvaccinated children in this age group.

NACI recommends that all influenza vaccines can be given at the same time as, or at any time before or after administration of, other live attenuated or inactivated vaccines. NACI has released their statement that co-administration of influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines can occur. NACI recognizes that some health care providers may choose to give live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and other live vaccines simultaneously or separated by at least four weeks to avoid any possibility of immune interference. Alternatively, an inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) may be given.

Pregnant individuals and newborn infants are considered at high risk of influenza-related complications including hospitalization. The risk of influenza-related hospitalization increases with length of gestation and therefore pregnant individuals are recommended to receive the flu vaccine at any stage of pregnancy. If not provided during pregnancy, the mother and other household contacts should be immunized as soon as possible after birth of the child in order to protect the infant. Infants cannot be immunized against influenza until 6 months of age.

Influenza vaccination provides benefits to health care workers (HCWs) and to the patients to whom they provide care. Immunization of care providers decreases their own risk of illness, as well as the risk of death and other serious outcomes among the patients to whom they provide care and who are vulnerable to influenza-related complications. NACI considers the receipt of influenza vaccination to be an essential component of the standard of care for all HCWs and other care providers for their own protection and that of their patients. This group should consider annual influenza vaccination as part of the responsibilities to provide the highest standard of care. For the

purposes of influenza vaccination, health care workers include any person, paid or unpaid, who provides services, works, volunteers or trains in a health care setting. A health care setting is any location where health care is provided, including emergency care, prehospital care, hospital, LTCF, home care, ambulatory care and facilities/locations in the community where care is provided (e.g. physician offices, immunization clinics, etc.). See page 8 of *Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care*, [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf).

## Overview of National/Provincial Recommendations

As per NACI, the national goal of the annual influenza immunization programs in Canada is to prevent serious illness caused by influenza and its complications, including death.

As part of the National Immunization Strategy (NIS), the national influenza vaccination coverage goals by 2025 includes achieving 80% coverage among:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Adults 18-64 years with chronic medical conditions
- Health care professionals

For the 2021-22 influenza season, Manitoba will look to have influenza coverage uptake across the population similar to last year as follows:

- Children 0-6 years of age - 25.7%
- Children 7-17 years of age - 23.6%
- Adults 18-64 years of age - 26.7%
- Seniors 65 years of age and older - 62.5%

The immunization coverage rate for those with high-risk medical conditions is difficult to determine. Health care providers are encouraged to identify their high-risk clients and seek to increase their rate of influenza vaccine coverage.

Every year, NACI updates its recommendations regarding the use of the seasonal flu vaccine. MHSC and Manitoba's Provincial Vaccine Advisory Committee (PVAC) thoroughly review and examine NACI's annual recommendations to inform provincial recommendations and program details. **NACI's Canadian Immunization Guide and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2021-22** is available online at <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2021-2022/naci-2021-2022-statement.pdf> and the MHSC **Seasonal Influenza Management Protocol** is also available online at [www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/pro.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/pro.html).

Annual vaccination is required because the specific strains in the vaccine are reviewed each year by WHO and the strains are often changed to provide a better match against the viruses expected to circulate, and because the body's immune response to influenza vaccination is unlikely to persist beyond a year.

For more information about provincial immunization program standards, please access Manitoba's *Immunization Program Manual*, available online at:

[www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html).

## Vaccine Efficacy and Effectiveness

Influenza vaccine has been shown to be efficacious, with higher efficacy demonstrated against laboratory-confirmed influenza than clinically defined outcomes. Immunization has been shown to reduce the number of physician visits, hospitalizations and deaths in high-risk adults.

As per NACI, the influenza vaccine has been shown in randomized controlled clinical trials to be efficacious in providing protection against influenza infection and illness. Effectiveness of the vaccine—that is, how it performs in settings that are more reflective of usual health care practice—can vary from season to season and by influenza vaccine strain type and subtype. Influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) depends on how well the vaccine strains match with circulating influenza viruses, the type and subtype, as well as the health and age of the individual receiving the vaccine. Even when there is a less-than-ideal match or lower effectiveness against one strain, the possibility of lower VE should not preclude vaccination, particularly for people at high risk of influenza-related complications and hospitalization. Vaccinated individuals are still more likely to be protected compared to those who are unvaccinated.

## Vaccine Safety

**Influenza vaccines are safe and well tolerated.** Data from post marketing surveillance of influenza vaccines in Canada (Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System) have shown seasonal influenza vaccines to have a safe and stable adverse event following immunization (AEFI) profile with no unexpected events.

All influenza vaccines currently authorized for use in Canada are considered safe for use in persons with latex allergies. The multi-dose vial (MDV) formulations of IIV contain minute quantities of thimerosal, which is used as a preservative to keep the product sterile. Large cohort studies of health databases have demonstrated that there is no association between thimerosal-containing vaccines and neurodevelopmental outcomes, including autistic-spectrum disorders. All single dose formulations [i.e. pre-filled syringes (PFS) or nasal spray] of IIV or LAIV (Fluzone® Quadrivalent, FluMist® Quadrivalent, Afluria® Tetra, and Fluzone®



High-Dose) are thimerosal-free. For more information on the contents of influenza and other vaccines see: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-15-contents-immunizing-agents-available-use-canada.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-15-contents-immunizing-agents-available-use-canada.html)

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*Note: For the 2021-22 influenza season, LAIV nasal spray will not be offered as part of Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Program.*

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With intramuscularly injected (needle) vaccines (Fluzone® Quadrivalent, Flulaval® Tetra, Afluria® Tetra, and Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent), injection site reactions are common but are generally classified as mild and transient. Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent tends to induce higher rates of systemic reactions post-injection compared to standard-dose IIV due to the increased antigen volumes, but most of these reactions are mild and short-lived. Please refer to the most recent version of the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Factsheet available online at: [www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/factsheets.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/factsheets.html) for more information on vaccine safety for each of the flu vaccines that are offered as part of Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program.

**Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS):** Studies suggest that the absolute risk of GBS in the period following seasonal and influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 influenza vaccination is about one excess case per one million vaccinations and that the risk of GBS associated with influenza illness is larger (about 17 cases per million influenza-coded health care encounters, which are a proxy for influenza illness) than that associated with influenza vaccination. Avoiding subsequent influenza vaccination of persons known to have had GBS within six weeks of a previous influenza vaccination appears prudent at this time. However, the potential risk of GBS recurrence associated with influenza vaccination must be balanced against the risk of GBS associated with influenza infection itself.

**Oculo-respiratory syndrome (ORS):** ORS was identified during the 2000/01 flu season; since then there have been far fewer cases reported per year to the Canadian Adverse Events Following Immunization Surveillance System. ORS is not considered to be an allergic response. Persons who have a recurrence of ORS upon revaccination do not necessarily experience further episodes with future vaccinations. Individuals who have experienced ORS without lower respiratory tract symptoms may be safely re-immunized with influenza vaccine. Persons who experienced ORS with lower respiratory tract symptoms should have an expert review. Data on clinically significant adverse events do not support the preference of one vaccine product over another when revaccinating those who have previously experienced ORS.

## Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions

NACI has reviewed the data on administering flu vaccine to egg allergic persons and has concluded that egg allergic individuals may be vaccinated using any of the seasonal influenza vaccines available as part of Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program without prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose, irrespective of a past severe reaction to egg, and without any extraordinary precautions, but ensuring that immunizers be prepared with the necessary equipment, knowledge and skills to respond to a vaccine emergency.

Please refer to the most recent version of the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Factsheet available online ([www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/factsheets.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/factsheets.html)) for a complete list of contraindications and precautions for each of the flu vaccines that are offered as part of Manitoba's Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program.

## Vaccine Products

As per the World Health Organization (WHO), all quadrivalent influenza vaccines that have egg-based or recombinant manufacturing processes for the 2021-22 season in the northern hemisphere contains:

- **A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like strain**
- **A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like strain**
- **B/Washington/02/2019-like strain; and**
- **B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain.**

For the 2021-22 season, the following table provides details on the different flu vaccines that are part of this years Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program. The volume of each product will vary based on national allotment and availability.

Vaccine	Ingredients/ Potential Allergens	Supplied/Storage	Dosage/Route/Schedule
<p><b>Fluzone® Quadrivalent</b></p> <p>Sanofi Pasteur Limited</p> <p><a href="#">Product Monograph</a></p> <p>Use in 6 months of age and older</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thimerosal (multidose vial only)</li> <li>• Formaldehyde</li> <li>• Egg protein</li> <li>• Triton® X-100</li> </ul> <p><b>Latex free</b></p>	<p><b>Supplied:</b> 0.5 mL single dose prefilled syringes (package of 10) or 5.0 mL multidose vial (10 doses).</p> <p><b>Multidose vial:</b> shake well to uniformly distribute the suspension before withdrawing each dose.</p> <p><b>Prefilled syringe:</b> shake well to uniformly distribute the suspension before administering each dose.</p>	<p><b>6 months to 8 years</b></p> <p><b>Dosage:</b> 0.5 mL</p> <p>1 or 2 doses - children 6 months to less than 9 years of age who have NOT previously been vaccinated against influenza should receive a second dose of 0.5 mL after an interval of at least 4 weeks.</p>

Vaccine	Ingredients/ Potential Allergens	Supplied/Storage	Dosage/Route/Schedule
		<p>After shaking well, solution is clear to slightly opalescent in colour. There should NOT be any particulate matter and/or discolouration – if these exist – do not administer.</p> <p><b>Storage:</b> 2 to 8 degrees C. Do not freeze. Discard product if exposed to freezing. Protect from light.</p> <p>Once punctured, vaccine can be used to the expiry date. <b>A maximum of 10 doses total can be withdrawn from a multidose vial.</b></p>	<p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 1 year of age.</p> <p>IM in the anterolateral aspect of the mid-thigh (vastus lateralis) for children less than 1 year of age.</p> <hr/> <p><b>≥ 9 years of age</b></p> <p><b>Dosage:</b> 0.5 mL</p> <p>1 dose</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 1 year of age.</p>
<p><b>FluLaval® Tetra</b></p> <p>GlazoSmithKline Inc.</p> <p><a href="#">Product Monograph</a></p> <p>Use in 6 months of age and older</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egg proteins</li> <li>• Sodium deoxycholate</li> <li>• Ethanol</li> <li>• Formaldehyde</li> <li>• Sucrose</li> <li>• α-tocopheryl hydrogen succinate</li> <li>• polysorbate 80</li> <li>• Thimersosal</li> </ul> <p><b>Latex free</b></p>	<p><b>Supplied:</b> 5.0 mL multidose vial (10-doses).</p> <p><b>Multidose vial:</b> shake prior to each administration and inspect visually for any foreign particulate matter and/or variation of physical aspect prior to administration. In the event of either being observed, discard the vaccine.</p> <p>Opalescent translucent to off-white suspension that may sediment slightly.</p> <p><b>Storage:</b> 2 to 8 degrees C. <b>Do not freeze.</b> Discard product if exposed to freezing. Protect from light.</p> <p>Once punctured, the multi-dose vial should be discarded within 28 days. Unpunctured vial is stable until expiry date on package.</p>	<p><b>6 months to 8 years</b></p> <p>Dosage: 0.5 mL</p> <p>1 or 2 doses - children 6 months to less than 9 years of age who have NOT previously been vaccinated against influenza should receive a second dose of 0.5 mL after an interval of at least 4 weeks.</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 1 year of age</p> <p>IM in the anterolateral aspect of the mid-thigh (vastus lateralis) for children less than 1 year of age</p> <hr/> <p><b>≥ 9 years of age</b></p> <p>Dosage: 0.5 mL</p> <p>1 dose</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 1 year of age</p>

Vaccine	Ingredients/ Potential Allergens	Supplied/Storage	Dosage/Route/Schedule
<p><b>Alfuria® Tetra</b></p> <p>Seqirus</p> <p><a href="#">Product Monograph</a></p> <p>Adults and children 5 years or older</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calcium chloride</li> <li>• Dibasic sodium phosphate (anhydrous)</li> <li>• Monobasic potassium phosphate</li> <li>• Monobasic sodium phosphate</li> <li>• Potassium chloride</li> <li>• Sodium chloride</li> <li>• Thimerosal (multidose vial only)</li> <li>• Water for injection</li> <li>• sodium taurodeoxycholate</li> <li>• ovalbumin (egg proteins)</li> <li>• beta-propiolactone</li> <li>• neomycin sulfate</li> <li>• polymyxin B sulfate</li> <li>• hydrocortisone</li> <li>• sucrose</li> </ul> <p><b>Latex free</b></p>	<p><b>Supplied:</b> 0.5 mL single dose prefilled syringes (package of 10) or 5.0 mL multidose vial (10 doses).</p> <p><b>Multidose vial:</b> Should be thoroughly shaken and inspected prior to withdrawing each dose.</p> <p><b>Prefilled syringe:</b> shake to uniformly distribute the sediment and inspect visually.</p> <p>Slightly opaque liquid with some white particulate sediment that resuspends upon shaking to form a homogenous suspension. Do not use if extraneous particulate matter and/or discolouration is observed.</p> <p><b>Storage:</b> 2 to 8 degrees C. <b>Do not freeze.</b> Discard product if exposed to freezing. Protect from light.</p> <p>Multidose vial must be used within 28 days from removal of the first dose. <b>The number of needles punctures should not exceed 10 per multi-dose vial.</b></p> <p>Unpunctured vial is stable until expiry date on package.</p>	<p><b>5 to 8 years of age</b></p> <p>0.5 mL</p> <p>1 or 2 doses – children 5 to &lt; 9 years of age who have NOT previously been vaccinated against influenza should receive a second dose of 0.5 mL after an interval of 4 weeks</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 5 year of age</p> <hr/> <p><b>≥ 9 years of age</b></p> <p>0.5 mL</p> <p>1 dose</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults and children greater than 5 year of age</p>
<p><b>Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent</b></p> <p>Sanofi Pasteur</p> <p><a href="#">Product Monograph</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Octylphenol ethoxylate (Triton® X-100)</li> <li>• Sodium phosphate buffered isotonic sodium chloride solution</li> </ul>	<p><b>Supplied:</b> 0.7 mL single dose prefilled syringe</p> <p><b>Prefilled syringe:</b> shake well to uniformly distribute the suspension before administering the dose. If extraneous particulate matter and/or discolouration exist, the product should not be</p>	<p><b>65 years and older</b></p> <p>0.7 mL</p> <p>1 dose</p> <p>IM in the deltoid for adults 65 year of age and older</p>

Vaccine	Ingredients/ Potential Allergens	Supplied/Storage	Dosage/Route/Schedule
Indicated in adults 65 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traces of formaldehyde and ovalbumin</li> </ul> <p><b>Latex free and thimerosal free</b></p>	<p>administered. After shaking the syringe well, clear and slightly opalescent in colour.</p> <p><b>Storage:</b> 2 to 8 degrees C. <b>Do not freeze.</b> Discard product if exposed to freezing. Do not use after the expiration date shown on the label.</p>	

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**Note: For the 2021-22 influenza season, LAIV nasal spray will not offered as part of Manitoba’s Influenza Immunization Program.**

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Please note: **ALL** flu vaccines **MUST** be administered by a health care professional who is registered or licensed to provide health care under an Act of the Legislature and who is authorized under that act to administer vaccines.

Due to the possibility of antigenic drift that may occur in one or more influenza virus strains, seasonal flu vaccines need to be reformulated and administered annually. This ensures protection against strains that are most likely to be circulating and that could cause increased morbidity and mortality.

**Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent**

**Starting in the 2021-22 influenza season, Fluzone® High-Dose will be offered as a quadrivalent IIV vaccine product.**

Manitoba Health and Seniors Care is continuing to offer the high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent) to those 65 years of age and older who are at highest risk of developing severe complications from influenza.

For the 2021-22 Influenza season, MHSC is offering high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent) to the following individuals who are 65 years of age and older **and** who are:

- Residents of long-term care facilities, including chronic care residents, OR
- Residents of supportive and assisted living housing, OR
- Clients in interim/transitional care beds, respite care clients as well as new, unimmunized residents admitted to a LTCF during the flu season, OR
- In a provincial correctional facility, including those who are newly incarcerated or transferred from other federal or out of province correctional facilities, OR
- Receiving homecare services while on a waiting list for admission into a long-term care facility, OR

- Living on a First Nation or remote/isolated community, OR
- Living north of the 53rd parallel of latitude

Residents 65 years of age and older of LTCFs, supportive and assisted housing, or correctional facilities are at higher risk of complications from the flu, and the immune response to flu vaccines in these populations is thought to be less effective than that seen in younger populations. In order to elicit a stronger and more effective immune response among elderly individuals, Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent is being offered because it contains four times the amount of influenza virus antigen per strain (60 µg vs. 15 µg) compared to the standard-dose IIV. Fluzone® High-Dose is a quadrivalent IIV (**new for 2021-22**) and protects against four influenza strains (2A + 2B) predicted to be circulating in North America during the 2021-22 season. These are the same strains that are part of the standard-dose IIV. Given the evidence of better efficacy in this age group, it is expected that Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent will provide superior protection compared with standard-dose IIV. *Staff and residents of LTCFs, assisted living, and supportive housing who are less than 65 years of age should be immunized with standard-dose IIV.* In the event that someone has been immunized with the standard dose when they were eligible for the high dose Influenza product, it is recommended to not administer the Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent.

According to the Long Term and Continuing Care Association of Manitoba ([www.ltcam.mb.ca/home.htm](http://www.ltcam.mb.ca/home.htm)) the following are descriptions for supportive and assisted living housing.

Assisted Living: Also referred to as Independent Living or Retirement Residence with services. They are private seniors living building where tenants rent suites. The residence may offer various services such as housekeeping, meals, and recreation. It is not associated with the health care system and is not an insured service. Nurses may be on site but their responsibilities at each location may vary.

Supportive Housing: They are facilities for people who require access to 24 hour supervision and some assistance managing with physical limitations, or ongoing health conditions such as dementia. Residents receive support with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and medication reminders. The rent and services components are paid by the resident. The support component of this service is funded through the Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba.

The higher antigen concentrations contained within Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent may result in higher rates of post-injection local adverse events compared to standard-dose IIV, but they are expected to last only two to three days and rarely interfere with normal activities. Any

reported adverse events following administration of Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent are reviewed based on provincial procedures. Studies reported higher rates of malaise, myalgia, and moderate to severe fever. Various studies noted a higher rate of systemic reactions with Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent, but serious adverse events were similar in frequency between the high- and standard-dose IIV.

Two randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and one retrospective cohort study measured the relative efficacy of Fluzone® High-Dose compared to a standard-dose IIV in adults 65 years of age and older. Relative efficacy of high-dose versus standard-dose IIV against lab-confirmed symptomatic influenza was 12.5% (95% CI: -141 to 66%) in one RCT during the 2009-10 season, in which the pandemic A(H1N1) flu virus predominated and represented a vaccine strain mismatch. Canadian authorization of the high-dose vaccine was based on a second, larger RCT conducted over two seasons (2011/12, 2012/13) in which the relative efficacy was 24% (95% CI: 10 to 36%) compared to standard-dose IIV. In the retrospective cohort study of Medicare beneficiaries in the USA, Fluzone® High-Dose was estimated to be 22% (95% CI: 15 to 29%) more effective than standard-dose IIV in preventing probable influenza-related illness, and 22% (95% CI: 16 to 27%) more effective than standard-dose IIV in preventing hospital admission due to an influenza diagnosis.

## Vaccine Distribution

Manitoba uses a mixed provider delivery model for Manitoba's Immunization Program, with public health nurses, nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives, physicians, physician assistants and pharmacists administering vaccines in private and public health settings. It is important for all health care providers to take this into consideration when they are ordering influenza vaccine because unused vaccines in a health care provider's fridge cannot be returned to the Provincial Distribution Warehouse for redistribution. All health care providers must order based on the the number of doses administered and recorded in Manitoba's Immunization Registry last year to reduce wastage.

**Failure to reconcile vaccine doses ordered with administered (and reported) may result in health care providers receiving fewer vaccine doses than ordered.** It is therefore critical that all influenza vaccine doses administered be reported to MHSC (see **Documentation - Data Entry** for more information on how to report administered vaccine doses). **Influenza vaccine wastage should be less than 10% at the end of the influenza season.** Subsequent orders can be placed with the Provincial Distribution Warehouse (at no penalty to the health care provider), while supplies last.

Barring any supply issues by the manufacturers, additional influenza vaccine doses are expected to be available. Providers should always consider a potential of increased public demand for flu vaccines and order accordingly. Orders will continue to be reviewed and monitored.

**Health care providers may order influenza vaccine starting August 3, 2021, and up to 4 p.m. on September 3, 2021, in order to be placed in their respective distribution groups, which have been outlined below. Any orders placed after 4 p.m. on September 3, 2021 will be placed in the last distribution group.** Where possible, health care providers at the same facility should submit one order for flu vaccine (that covers all providers in the facility) to expedite orders and reduce the number of individual orders that are being shipped to one location, and reduce the potential for wastage.

To place an order for influenza vaccine, please submit an order online or via fax/email using the *Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines Order Form* ([www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influpnevcorderform.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/influpnevcorderform.pdf)), or as directed through the Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS).

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**Note: For the 2021-22 influenza season, LAIV nasal spray will not be offered as part of Manitoba's Influenza Immunization Program.**

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If you are ordering on behalf of clients who are eligible to receive High-Dose Influenza vaccine, please indicate on the Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines Order Form which population you will be ordering for and in which facilities you will be administering the doses, if applicable.

Provided flu vaccine manufacturers meet delivery timelines as per the contractual obligations for the 2021-22 season, all flu 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 0, 1, 2 or 3
3. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 4, 5 or 6
4. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 7, 8 or 9
5. providers/facilities that order after 4 p.m. on September 3rd, 2021.

Within each of these groups, orders will be processed in the sequence in which orders are received by the Provincial Distribution Warehouse (on or after the vaccine ordering start date).

If one or more flu vaccine manufacturers fail to deliver flu vaccine on time, distribution could be substantially delayed or product substitutions may take place. In the event that this occurs, MHSC



will communicate important flu vaccine distribution and delivery information to immunization providers in a timely manner and post it on the “Vaccine Distribution and Supply” website: [www.gov.mb.ca/fludistribution](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fludistribution)

## Documentation

Adverse events following immunization (AEFI), doses administered, consent obtained and incidents of adverse storage conditions must be recorded and reported to MHSC.

### a. Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

In accordance with The Public Health Act, health care providers are to report to the regional Medical Officer of Health (MOH) a reportable AEFI within seven days of becoming aware of the AEFI (as per section 59 of The Act). Health care providers should report a serious AEFI (see below) within one business day, which can be by telephone, followed by the complete report thereafter.

A reportable AEFI is an event that:

1. is temporally associated with a vaccine
2. has no other clear cause at the time of reporting
3. is either serious or unexpected

An AEFI is considered “serious” if any of the following criteria are met:

- results in death
- is life-threatening, that is, where the patient was at real, rather than hypothetical, risk of death at the time of the event/reaction
- requires in-patient hospitalization, defined as any of the following:
  - hospital stay lasting  $\geq 24$  hours based on known date/time of admission and discharge or,
  - hospital stay involving all or part of two consecutive days (i.e. admission and discharge date are at least one day apart but specific time of admission is not specified)
- results in prolongation of existing hospitalization
- results in persistent or significant disability/incapacity (if known at the time of reporting)
- is a congenital anomaly/birth defect
- is medically important, defined as:
  - an event or reaction that might not be immediately life-threatening, or result in death or hospitalisation, but might jeopardise the patient or might require intervention to prevent one of the other seriousness criteria

An AEFI is considered “unexpected” if either of the following criteria is met:

- is not listed in the most current Health Canada-approved product monograph for vaccines marketed in Canada
- listed in the product monograph but is different in nature, severity, frequency, specificity or outcome

The AEFI module of PHIMS allows public health providers with access to PHIMS to report AEFIs directly into PHIMS. Health care providers without access to PHIMS should complete a **Reporting Form for Adverse Events Following Immunization** online at: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi\\_form.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/aefi_form.pdf) and submit to your regional MOH (see bottom of form for link to list of MOH contact information). All forms received will also be entered into PHIMS for vaccine safety surveillance in Manitoba, and will be included as part of the client immunization record in the provincial immunization registry within PHIMS. All MOH recommendations of an individual's AEFI should be recorded in the client's personal health record.

**Manitoba Health and Seniors Care reviews all submitted AEFI reports. If a link is found between a possible adverse event and a vaccine, public health officials take appropriate actions to ensure the safety of patients.**

For more information on AEFI, visit: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/aefi.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/aefi.html).

## **b. Data Entry**

Every health care provider and facility in Manitoba **MUST ACCOUNT FOR EVERY DOSE OF VACCINE ORDERED AND ADMINISTERED, INCLUDING FLU VACCINE**, by ensuring that doses are recorded in the client's electronic public health record. Immunizations are entered into a client's electronic public health record via the Manitoba Immunization Registry (PHIMS) in one of three ways:

- Electronically uploaded from the Drug Program Information Network (DPIN) when non-COVID immunizations including the influenza vaccine are administered by pharmacists. **Pharmacies are to only enter COVID-19 immunizations directly into PHIMS.**
- Electronically uploaded from Claims Processing System (Physician Billing) when publicly funded immunizations are administered by fee-for-service physicians and other health care providers that shadow bill (e.g. regional nurse practitioners).
- Direct entry into the Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS): health care providers (excluding pharmacists) that have access to PHIMS can enter flu vaccine doses administered directly into Manitoba's Immunization Registry (assuming their permissions allow for data entry).

If you do not have access to PHIMS, unable to enter information directly into PHIMS (i.e. Private Flu Clinic), or need to submit doses administered to persons without a PHIN you can report those doses

by completing and submitting the appropriate fillable form. All doses administered and reported will be recorded into Manitoba's Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS).

- Pharmacies: [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/Inputting-form-pharmacies.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/Inputting-form-pharmacies.pdf)
- All other providers: [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/Inputting-form-clinics.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/Inputting-form-clinics.pdf)

Surveillance of influenza immunization uptake is included in the weekly and end of season influenza surveillance reports. Reports for 2021-22 as well as for previous seasons can be accessed online at: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/reports.html).

### **c. Consent**

As per Manitoba Health and Seniors Care *Informed Consent Guidelines for Immunization* ([www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/consentguidelines.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/consentguidelines.pdf)), verbal and/or written consent must be obtained prior to immunization and must be documented via a consent form, medical chart or electronic health record. To assist with obtaining consent for influenza and Pneu-P-23 immunizations, a *Seasonal Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Consent Form* is available online at: [www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/docs/flupneumo\\_consentform.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/docs/flupneumo_consentform.pdf)

### **d. Storage and Handling Requirements**

As with all vaccines and biologics, please refer to the online *Cold Chain Protocol – Immunizing Vaccines and Biologics* and corresponding resources for all storage and handling requirements ([www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/coldchain.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/coldchain.html)).

Vaccines must be stored in a temperature monitored refrigerator between 2° to 8° Celsius. In the event that vaccines have been exposed to temperatures outside of 2° to 8° Celsius, health care providers MUST report the adverse storage condition incident to MHSC by completing/submitting the online form ([www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ccf.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ccf.pdf)) or submit the required information directly through PHIMS.

**Manitoba Health and Seniors Care does not allow the use of bar fridges to store vaccines and regular mercury thermometers are not be used to monitor the fridge temperature.**

Fridges should only contain vaccines. No food or other biologics should be kept in the vaccine fridge. Health care providers who are holding clinics outside of their main facility, where a fridge may not be present, should review the **Packing, Storage and Handling for Off-Site Immunization Clinics** section of the *Cold Chain Protocol* to ensure that vaccines are stored and transported properly and

temperature of the vaccines are maintained and recorded throughout the time they are out of the fridge.

## Communications

All promotional/educational resources (e.g. factsheets, posters, brochures) will be available to order, free-of-charge, from the Materials Distribution Agency, and will also be posted on MHSC's Seasonal Flu website ([www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html)). The flu promotional/educational resources may be updated for the 2021-22 season. Confirmation of such a change will be made once any final decisions are made and a communiqué will be sent advising of when the updated resources are available.

As with previous years, Manitoba Health and Seniors Care will communicate with health care providers including Service Delivery Organizations (SDOs), pharmacists, and ISC frequently throughout the summer to support planning of mass clinics. Generally, mass letters are faxed to all health care providers in June, or as soon as possible, advising of the general parameters of the Program (e.g. eligibility criteria) and then again in September (or as needed), with any updated details of the program (resources, vaccine products and ordering, high-risk groups, etc.).

All provincial advertising and official program launch will commence October (exact date TBD).

In order to provide more information to the public MHSC will continue to post any clinics that are being held where the public is able to attend. MHSC has also expanded the visibility of the influenza vaccines for the public through GIS mapping where they can geographically see any locations that have indicated that they have influenza vaccine supply available and are accepting walk-ins/appointments from the public. This information is posted on the *Where Can I Get My Flu Vaccine* site ([www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/where.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/where.html)). Health care providers that are planning on hosting public clinics are to ensure that the information is provided via email to [vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vaccines@gov.mb.ca).