

October 20, 2015

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals – Administration, Emergency, Infection Control, Occupational Health; Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Correctional Services, EMS

RE: EVIDENCE OF INFLUENZA CIRCULATING IN HKPR AREA AND SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit has received notification of two laboratory confirmed flu cases, to date. Both cases reported travel outside of Canada, however returned home during their period of communicability. Influenza activity has also been identified in other Health Unit areas throughout Ontario.

Influenza can affect persons of all ages and is associated with increased otitis media (young children), pneumonia and hospitalizations. Influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. A reminder that those children 6 months to < 9 years of age who have never had a flu shot should receive two doses of vaccine, at least 4 weeks apart.

The official launch of the 2015-2016 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) is **October 26, 2015**. Please see the table below for information on the vaccines that will be available this year.

UIIP implementation materials for the 2015-2016 season are posted on the MOHLTC website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/>.

Influenza Vaccine	Vaccine formulation	Package Description	Administration	Eligibility
Agriflu® Fluviral®	Trivalent	Multi-dose vial	IM	6 months of age and older
Influvac®	Trivalent	Single dose syringe	IM	18 years of age and older
FluLaval Tetra® Fluzone®	Quadrivalent	Multi-dose vial	IM	6 months through 17 years of age
Flumist®	Quadrivalent (LIVE)	Single dose sprayer	Intranasal spray	2 to 17 years of age; preferred vaccine for 2 through 5 year olds***
Fluad®	Trivalent	Single dose syringe	IM	65 years of age and older who reside in a long-term care home

Please note: The Health Unit will be providing all UIIP participants with a 'Flu Vaccine Cheat Sheet' tool at the first pickup/delivery of flu vaccine.

Please plan to schedule influenza immunization clinics at the later part of October through to November due to potential issue with vaccine availability and supply.

ORDERING SEASONAL FLU VACCINE

All vaccine orders will be filled according to Health Unit vaccine supply. All providers will be required to fax a copy of refrigerator temperature logs with **every** vaccine order. With all orders, a minimum of 72 hours' notice is required to ensure the order is prepared for pick-up. Please have a cooler with adequate space that is between 2-8°C to transport the vaccine according to the MOHLTC guidelines.

Doctor's/ Nurse Practitioner's offices: Please use the Health Unit Flu Vaccine Order form when ordering flu vaccine. Your Flu Vaccine Order form will be provided to you with your first flu vaccine auto-shipment. Following your auto-shipment of influenza vaccine for high risk individuals, additional flu vaccine will be available for pick up on **October 26th** for the general population. Orders are due no later than **October 20th** for pick up on **October 26th**.

LTCHs: Your first allotment of vaccine will be an auto shipment (no order required) available for pick up on **October 26th**. Your Flu Vaccine Order form will be provided to you with your first auto-shipment.

Hospitals, pharmacies, correctional facilities, agencies, and workplaces: Please use the MOHLTC UIIP Flu Vaccine order form (with the exception of Hospitals). You can submit orders for vaccine as soon as you receive this order form. Flu vaccine will be available for pick up starting **October 26th**. Orders are due no later than **October 20th** for pick up on **October 26th**.

VACCINE PICK-UP DAYS AND TIMES

Flu vaccine pick up will begin on October 26th. Following, vaccine pick-up days for both the Lindsay and Port Hope offices will be:

- Tuesdays between 9am - 12:30pm
- Thursdays between 1:30pm - 4pm

Providers wishing to pick up vaccine on October 26, 2015 need to have their **order faxed to the Health Unit no later than October 20, 2015.** Any orders received after this date will not be available until the next flu vaccine pick-up day.

For facilities that have their vaccine delivered, flu vaccine will be delivered with your regular monthly vaccine order.

Should you require further information, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program and your call will be returned.

Haliburton
705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

Port Hope
905-885-9100