

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**
**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

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September 1, 2011

**TO: Ontario Public Hospitals**
**RE: The Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) - 2011/2012**

This letter is to provide you with information about Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) for the 2011/2012. Private Hospitals must prequalify to participate in the UIIP and should refer to the letter for Regulated Health Care Professional Holding Non-Reimbursable Clinics (enclosed).

**Vaccine Supply and Delivery**
**Influenza Vaccine Supply for the UIIP 2011/2012**

Vaccine Strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus</li> <li>• A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus</li> <li>• B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.</li> </ul>
Vaccine Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriflu<sup>®</sup> - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine in pre-loaded single dose syringes)</li> <li>• Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup> - produced by Sanofi Pasteur (trivalent inactivated vaccine in multi-dose vial)</li> <li>• Flud<sup>®</sup> - produced by Novartis (trivalent inactivated vaccine with adjuvant targeted to individuals ≥65 years of age and older and available in Ontario for residents of Long-Term Care Homes)</li> </ul>

The publicly funded influenza vaccines are received by the province in a series of three shipments therefore distribution throughout the province will be incremental. You will be notified by your local public health unit when the vaccine is available. The official launch of the UIIP for 2011/2012 is the first week of October, 2011. Influenza vaccine can be administered as soon as it is received. The two vaccines that public hospitals can expect to receive are Agriflu<sup>®</sup> and Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup>. Agriflu<sup>®</sup> and Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup> are considered to be equivalent vaccines and will be dispensed from the vaccine supply source based on supply as opposed to product specific requests.

The Flud<sup>®</sup> vaccine is reserved in Ontario for individuals aged 65 years or older who live in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs). Public hospitals should not expect to receive the Flud<sup>®</sup> vaccine. This vaccine will be provided to LTCHs only, through auto-shipments by the local public health units.

### **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) UIIP 2011/2012 Recommendations**

- All individuals aged 6 months or older who live, work or attend school in Ontario, and who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive the publicly funded influenza vaccine (Agriflu<sup>®</sup> or Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup>).
- All residents of Ontario LTCHs, who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive publicly funded Flud<sup>®</sup> vaccine through the UIIP for protection from the influenza virus.

### **The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Recommendations**

The NACI *Statement on Seasonal Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for 2011/2012* is not yet available. When published, the NACI statement will be available on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#). The ministry will notify you when the NACI statement becomes available.

### **The UIIP and Pneumococcal Immunization to High Risk Groups**

There is considerable overlap in the indications for the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. Because of this overlap, the annual influenza immunization program presents an excellent opportunity to immunize eligible persons who have not yet received one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, or the appropriate number of doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

The pneumococcal vaccine may be administered concurrently with influenza vaccine, but at a separate anatomic site.

All residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards are eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine as part of the high-risk program. In addition all persons over the age of 65 in the community are eligible for a dose regardless of their medical history.

### **Promotional Materials for the UIIP**

In addition, promotional materials and publications for the UIIP will be available from [Service Ontario](#).

## Access to UIIP Information

The UIIP manual and program materials such as the fact sheet and vaccine ordering and reporting forms and this letter, etc. will continue to be available from the [ministry's website](#).

## Influenza Immunization Clinics at Public Hospitals

### *Reimbursable Clinics:*

- Reimbursable clinics can only be provided by organizations currently receiving transfer payments from the ministry, including public hospitals.
- The ministry has provided a letter (enclosed) about “reimbursable clinics” administered as part of the 2011/2012 UIIP. Public hospitals that will be hosting “reimbursable clinics” are strongly encouraged to review this letter and supporting data collection documents to ensure clinic conditions meet the provincial criteria for reimbursement.
- The ministry will reimburse public hospitals \$5.00 for each dose of influenza vaccine administered through community clinics.
- Any influenza immunization clinic held by a public hospital that is widely advertised and open to the general public is considered a reimbursable clinic.
- Clinics for public hospital staff are considered workplace clinics and are NOT reimbursable.

### *Non-Reimbursable Clinics:*

- Public hospitals may be interested in hosting non-reimbursable influenza immunization clinics for their staff. These clinics are considered the same as workplace clinics and reimbursement is not provided by the ministry. Information about non-reimbursable clinics is enclosed and can be found by reviewing the [UIIP manual](#).
- Public hospitals that will be hosting non-reimbursable influenza immunization clinics for their staff are strongly encouraged to review the “non-reimbursable clinic letter” for specific information during the 2011/2012 influenza season..

## Influenza Immunization Clinic Reporting Requirements

- Reporting the amount of vaccine administered at each public hospital clinic is a vaccine inventory management measure required by the province of Ontario. This is not the same as reporting health care worker immunization rates.
- Public hospitals are required to report each dose of influenza vaccine administered to their vaccine supply source no later than 10 days after the immunization clinic was held and no later than **February 28, 2012**.
- For non-reimbursable clinics the *Vaccine Utilization Report* must be submitted.
- For reimbursable clinics the *Vaccine Utilization Invoice* must be submitted.
- Additional vaccine may not be released if adequate reporting is not received by the vaccine supply source.
- Enclosed, please find a set of forms to facilitate data collection of all doses of influenza vaccine administered through public hospital reimbursable and non-reimbursable clinics.

## Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Rate Reporting Requirements for Public Hospitals

As you are aware, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) has been collecting seasonal influenza immunization rates for health care workers in public hospitals since 1999 and for hospital staff since 2000. This is not the same as the aforementioned inventory management reporting requirements.

Seasonal influenza immunization coverage rates are to be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health each year. At the provincial level, these results are compiled by the Public Health Division (PHD) in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the UIIP.

The *Influenza Surveillance Protocol* indicates that “coverage” or immunization rates as of November 15<sup>th</sup> should be reported by the facility by December 1<sup>st</sup>, each year to the local medical officer of health at the local public health unit. Results for each facility are then reported from each health unit to the ministry electronically using the web-based system developed for this purpose. Immunization coverage rates will be published in the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* once analysis has been completed. Public hospitals are advised that the reporting and publishing of immunization rates of health care workers is a means of measuring the effectiveness of Ontario’s UIIP.

The ministry recognizes that reporting immunization rates as of November 15<sup>th</sup> each year may pose challenges for some facilities across the province. We request this information be provided prior to the peak of influenza season because it is important to have an accurate picture of immunization rates before outbreaks occur. This helps to determine the influenza vaccine’s effectiveness.

Enclosed, please find a set of forms to facilitate data collection of influenza immunization rates at public hospitals in Ontario for the 2011/2012 influenza season. As stated above, these forms should be completed with immunization rates on or before November 15, 2011 and reported to your local public health unit no later than December 15, 2011.

Should you have any questions or concerns related to the information provided in this letter, please contact Rachel Blanchette, Nurse Consultant, at 416-314-6955 or [Rachel.Blanchette@ontario.ca](mailto:Rachel.Blanchette@ontario.ca), or the UIIP inbox at [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Dr. David C. Williams*

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Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health  
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c: Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Units  
Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Program Managers, Public Health Units  
Erik Wiersma, A/Manager, Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply  
Service (OGPMSS), Customer Service

#### Attachments

- Letter to Regulated Health Care Professionals Holding Non-Reimbursable Clinics
- Letter to Regulated Health Care Professionals Holding Reimbursable Clinics
- Vaccine Utilization Report – Non-Reimbursable Clinics
- Vaccine Utilization Invoice – Reimbursable Clinics
- Reporting Form on Influenza Immunization Rates at Ontario Hospitals