

**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 Long-Term Care Homes**
**RE: The Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) - 2011/2012**

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to provide you with information about Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) 2011/2012.

**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>

This year the province of Ontario will be offering a vaccine with enhanced effectiveness among elderly individuals to residents living in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH). Flud<sup>®</sup> is an adjuvanted trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine that is targeted to elderly populations 65 years of age and older.

The vaccine comes in a pre-filled single dose syringe that is compatible with luer-lock needles. LTCHs can expect to receive their supply of Flud<sup>®</sup> in one or more auto-shipments from their vaccine supply source (either the local public health unit or, if the LTCH has the "M" postal code, the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS)).

The official launch of the UIIP 2011/2012 is the first week of October. The Fludax<sup>®</sup> vaccine may be administered to LTCH residents aged 65 years or more as soon as it is received. However, it is recommended that residents receive Fludax<sup>®</sup> starting the month of October.

Fludax<sup>®</sup> should not be administered to the following groups:

- LTCH residents less than 65 years of age;
- LTCH staff regardless of age;
- Retirement home residents or staff regardless of age; or to
- Community clients who attend any community clinics that may be offered by the LTCH.

LTCHs should contact their local vaccine supply source to order publicly funded influenza vaccine (Agriflu<sup>®</sup> and/or Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup>) for these groups.

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

- All residents of Ontario LTCHs, who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive publicly funded Fludax<sup>®</sup> vaccine through the UIIP.
- 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>) through the UIIP.

### **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 polysaccharide vaccine. 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.

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.

## Promotional Materials for the UIIP

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 LTCHs

### *Reimbursable Clinics:*

- Reimbursable clinics can only be provided by organizations currently receiving transfer payments from the ministry, including LTCHs.
- Fluad<sup>®</sup> is restricted to LTCH residents only, therefore if a reimbursable clinic is being held for the general public the vaccine supply source must be contacted to order appropriate vaccine (Agriflu<sup>®</sup> and/or Vaxigrip<sup>®</sup>) for a community clinic.
- The ministry has provided a letter (enclosed) about “reimbursable clinics” administered as part of the 2011/2012 UIIP. LTCHs 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 LTCHs \$5.00 for each dose of influenza vaccine administered through community clinics.
- Any influenza immunization clinic held by a LTCH that is widely advertised and open to the general public is considered a reimbursable clinic.
- Clinics for LTCH staff are considered workplace clinics and are NOT reimbursable.

### *Non-Reimbursable Clinics:*

- LTCHs 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](#).
- LTCHs 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 for the 2011/2012 influenza season.

## Influenza Immunization Clinic Reporting Requirements

- Reporting the amount of vaccine administered at each LTCH clinic is a vaccine inventory management measure required by the province of Ontario. This is not the same as reporting LTCH resident and staff immunization rates.

- LTCHs 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 for all doses of influenza vaccine administered through LTCH reimbursable and non-reimbursable clinics.

### **Influenza Immunization Rate Reporting Requirements for LTCH Residents and Staff**

As you are aware, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) has been collecting seasonal influenza immunization rates for residents and staff of LTCHs 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. 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. LTCH homes are advised that the reporting and publishing of immunization rates of residents or staff does not affect base funding and are to measure 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 and pneumococcal immunization rates at LTCHs in Ontario for the 2011/2012 influenza season. For pneumococcal vaccine coverage, please indicate the cumulative pneumococcal immunization rate for residents in the home, not just residents who were immunized in 2011. 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*

David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Health Protection & Prevention

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 Long-Term Care Homes