

OCTOBER 26, 2004
IN THIS ISSUE
UNIVERSAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM

FROM
HOWARD SHAPIRO, MD, MSc, FRCPC
ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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The 2004 – 2005 Universal Influenza Immunization Program is now in operation

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS FOR UNIVERSAL FLU VACCINATION

Free flu vaccine is available to anyone \geq 6 months of age who lives, works or attends school in Ontario

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) 2004-2005 Recommendations
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/04pdf/acs-dcc-30-3.pdf>

Contraindications

- Anaphylactic reaction to a **previous flu vaccination**
- Anaphylactic reaction to **eggs**
- Adults with **serious acute febrile illness** usually should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have abated

Recommended Recipients of Flu Vaccination

- *Every* healthy child, adolescent or adult for whom contraindications are not present

Vaccination is strongly recommended for the following groups

- **At High-Risk for Flu related complications**
 - Healthy children 6-23 months
 - Residents of nursing homes and /or chronic care facilities
 - People \geq 65 years of age
 - Adults and children with chronic medical conditions e.g., cardiac, pulmonary, diabetes & other metabolic diseases, cancer, immunosuppression, renal disease, anemia and hemoglobinopathy
 - Children and adolescents (6 months – 18 years) with conditions treated for long periods with ASA
- **At High-Risk for transmitting to compromised populations**
 - *All* Health care workers (acute, chronic or community-based work settings)
 - *Everyone* living with a high-risk patient
 - *Everyone* providing care for children aged 0-23 months
 - *Everyone* providing an essential community service

ADDITIONAL NOTES...

Influenza vaccination during pregnancy or lactation:

- The NACI states: "Current evidence indicates that the influenza vaccine is safe for pregnant women at all stages of pregnancy and for breastfeeding mothers. Although it is safe for use in the first trimester, certain health care workers prefer to avoid administration of influenza vaccine during this trimester in order to avoid coincidental association with spontaneous abortion, which occurs most commonly in the first trimester."

SUPPLYING VACCINE TO NON-RESIDENTS

The current vaccine shortage in the United States has placed many Ontario physicians in the awkward situation of having non-Ontario residents request vaccination.

The CMA, CMPA, OMA, and CPSO have all developed positions, policy and/or recommendations for physicians considering providing vaccine and vaccinations to out of province residents. Please refer to their websites or contact them for their most current recommendations.

CMA: <http://www.cma.ca/> Toll free 1 800-457-4205

CMPA: <http://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/> Toll free 1-800-267-6522

OMA: <http://www.oma.org/> Tel: 416-599-2580 Toll-Free: 1-800-268-7215

CPSO: <http://www.cpso.on.ca/> Physician Advisory Service: 416-967-2606

FYI - PEEL HEALTH FLU VACCINATION CLINICS

- Peel Health has established a number of community flu vaccination clinics your patients may wish to attend
- Please refer to the schedule on our web site for a full listing of clinic locations, dates and times <http://www.peelregion.ca/flu/clinics/index.htm>
- Be aware that the following patients will be referred by public health staff to their family physician for further discussion and vaccination
 - children under one year
 - women who are or may be pregnant
 - anyone for whom a possible contraindication needs to be assessed
- To enable full consent, non-English speaking residents should have a translator present
- Peel Health flu vaccination clinics currently request registration information from recipients that states an Ontario address. We reserve the right to ask for proof of Ontario resident eligibility

VACCINE SUPPLY CHAIN DETAILS

- The Vaccines available under this year's program are
 - **Fluviral®** (Shire Biologics)
 - **Vaxigrip®** (Aventis Pasteur)
- To order vaccine
- **Call ...905-791-7800** extension **6404**
- **Fax ...905-793-2114**
- **Download** flu vaccine order forms and flu related materials from our website: <http://www.peelregion.ca/flu/downloads/index.htm>