

ALERT: Suspend Use of Agriflu and Fluad Influenza Vaccines

Date: October 27, 2012

Peterborough County-City
HEALTH UNIT
...because health matters!

Agriflu and Fluad are two of the seasonal flu vaccines produced by Novartis that have been pulled from use in several European countries pending further examination. **As a precautionary step, Health Canada asked Novartis to suspend distribution of the vaccines in Canada until a full review of the situation is completed. Novartis has agreed. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also recommending that health care professionals in possession of these vaccines refrain from using them until the review is complete.**

The Public Health Agency of Canada monitors for adverse events following immunization. To date it has received no reports of serious or unexpected adverse events related to these vaccines.

Health Canada rigorously reviewed Agriflu and Fluad for safety and effectiveness before it was authorized for use in Canada. Clumping of the kind noted in Europe is common in vaccines. Health Canada has previously seen such particles before in other vaccines and has observed no impact on their safety or effectiveness. The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada will continue to work with the company to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine used here in Canada. Should a safety concern be identified, immediate and appropriate action will be taken.

There is no recommendation, at this time, for re-immunization of patients who have received these vaccines.

The Health Unit will not be using these vaccines at influenza clinics, nor distributing these vaccines until further advised by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Keep this vaccine refrigerated between 2°C and 8°C in a paper bag marked: DO NOT USE until further advised by the Health Unit.

If you have questions or require additional influenza vaccine, please call the Health Unit on Monday October 29, 2012 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.