

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators/Directors of Care/Infection Control Staff in Retirement Residences (which have prequalified to administer influenza vaccine in the 2017/2018 season) and all Nursing Homes

RE: **Preparing for the 2017/2018 Universal Influenza Immunization Program**

DATE: September 2017

In preparation for the influenza season, the following documents are available on Peterborough Public Health's website at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) under *For Professionals / Health Professionals / Influenza*

- [Outbreak Control Measures for Institutions](#)
- [A Guide to the Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2016](#)
- [Resident, Volunteers and Staff Vaccination List Form](#)
- [Volunteers, Visitors and Influenza Immunization Letter](#)
- [Influenza Vaccine Order Form](#)
- [Checklist for LTCFs to Use to Prepare for the Influenza Season](#)
- [Respiratory Outbreak Line List Form](#)

Additional Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) documents for this year's influenza season are posted at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/>.

**SAVE THE DATE: We will be offering an in-service on influenza for long term care facilities and retirement residences on Friday Oct. 6, 2017 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Peterborough Public Health, 185 King Street, Second Floor. To register, please call (705)743-1000, ext. 135.**

**Nasopharyngeal Swabs:** Nasopharyngeal swab kits for suspected cases will be provided when you pick up your vaccine order (or arrangements can be made to drop off kits to your facility). Please read the directions on storing these swabs and obtaining specimens. Before using the swab, check the expiry date on both swab and vial. Record the patient's name and birth date on the requisition form and on each vial. If this is an outbreak, record the outbreak number on the vial and on the requisition form. The swabs can be stored at room temperature. However, once used, they should be refrigerated until submitted to the Ontario Provincial Laboratory on Hospital Drive. For information on how to take a nasopharyngeal specimen, check the table of contents of the document titled, [Control of Respiratory Outbreaks in Long Term Care Homes](#).

**Influenza Vaccine:** The following vaccines will be supplied to us by the MOHLTC:

Influenza Vaccine	Vaccine Formulation	Manufacturer	Route of Administration	Eligibility in Ontario
Fluviral®	TIV	GSK	Intramuscular Injection	18 years and older
Influvac®	TIV	BGP Pharma (Abbott)	Intramuscular Injection	18 years and older
FluLaval Tetra®	QIV	GSK	Intramuscular Injection	6 months through 17 years
Fluzone Quadrivalent®	QIV	Sanofi Pasteur	Intramuscular Injection	6 months through 17 years
Flumist®	QLAIV	Astra Zeneca	Nasal spray	2 years through 17 years

This year, Flud® will not be available. Fluviral and Influvac (TIV) vaccines above can be used.

**The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Recommendations:** The NACI *Statement on Seasonal Influenza* is available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php>.

**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.

**Anaphylaxis:** This information is included in the Canadian Immunization Guide, Evergreen Edition which can be accessed at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p02-03-eng.php>.

**Adverse Vaccine Reactions following Immunization:** As required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, all adverse vaccine reactions need to be reported to the Health Unit using the Ontario Adverse Event Following Immunization Form. Please reference the Public Health website for more information and copies of the form at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

**Vaccine Fridge Inspections:** All organizations prequalifying to participate in this influenza season must pass a vaccine fridge inspection. If you have not yet received an inspection, please contact Christine Lowe at 705-743-1000, ext. 260. For a copy of the MOHLTC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, call Peterborough Public Health or check the website at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

**Vaccine Storage & Handling:** According to the MOHLTC's Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocol, it is recommended that vaccine cooler temperatures are tracked during clinics. To assist in tracking vaccine cooler temperatures, please see our website for a copy of our recording sheet. Maximum, minimum and current temperatures should be recorded when leaving your facility, after 1 hour of travel, when arriving at the clinic site, a minimum of every hour during clinic, at the clinic site before leaving, after 1 hour of travel, and finally, when arriving at your facility before putting vaccine back in the fridge.

**Vaccine Clinics:** Vaccine will be available at pharmacies and health care provider offices starting mid-October for the general public. One community clinic will be held in Millbrook in November. Peterborough Public Health will hold clinics in November through January for children under 5 years of age and others wishing to book an appointment. Clinic dates will be posted at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca).

**Vaccine Distribution & Pick Up:** Please complete our Flu Vaccine Order form and fax your order along with your vaccine fridge temperature log to Christine Lowe at (705)743-2897. We will indicate the date flu vaccine is available for pick-up on our website. Please allow 5 days to fill flu vaccine orders and indicate the time frame for your pick up.

Only order a one week supply of vaccine. The temperature log should indicate temperatures within the range of 2°C to 8°C for at least seven days. If you cannot administer the vaccine within the next one week, please arrange a later date for vaccine pick-up to reduce the risk of losing vaccine in a cold chain failure. Please ensure sufficient space is available in the monitored fridge to accommodate the vaccine order. Immediately report any fridge temperatures below 2°C or above 8°C – call 705-743-1000 ext. 139 between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or after hours leave a message at 705-760-8197 for on-call staff.

Peterborough Public Health is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. For vaccine pick up, a hard-sided cooler with a min/max thermometer is required. Please ensure that it is properly cooled before pick up to shorten your wait time. If you wish to borrow a Public Health cooler for your clinics this season, please contact Christine Lowe.

Reporting the amount of vaccine administered at each clinic is a vaccine inventory management measure required by the province of Ontario. The Ministry requires reporting of each dose of influenza vaccine administered during flu clinics administered by your organization. The appropriate Vaccine Utilization Reporting Form should be completed and faxed to Public Health no later than 10 days after the immunization clinic. The Vaccine Utilization Report Forms for non-reimbursable or reimbursable clinics will be posted on our website at [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) Please fax to the attention of Letisha Crombie at 705-743-2897.

**Questions...**

- go to [www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca) for information and forms
- Vaccine Order questions → call Administrative Assistant Christine Lowe at (705)743-1000, ext. 260
- Disease or Vaccine questions → call a Vaccine Preventable Disease Nurse at (705)754-1000, ext. 131
- for all other Universal Influenza Immunization program questions, call Marilyn Mitchell at (705)743-1000 ext. 270 or Danika Wentzel at ext. 299