



**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: Health Care Providers**

**RE: The Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) - 2011/2012**

Dear Health Care Provider:

This letter is intended to provide information on Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program – 2011/2012. It is directed to all health care providers that administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to clients and bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for this service or who are paid by the province through means other than the UIIP. Health care providers who do not bill OHIP or who are not already paid through some other provincial means should refer to the letter(s) addressed to Regulated Health Care Professionals or to Ontario Pharmacists (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>• Fluad<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 two initial shipments, therefore distribution throughout the province will be incremental. You will be notified by your local public health unit when the vaccine is available. In most areas the influenza vaccine will be available in the middle of September. However, the official launch of the UIIP – 2011/2012 is the first week of October 2011. Influenza vaccine can be administered as soon as it is received. The two vaccines that health care providers 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 based on supply as opposed to vaccine 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). Health care providers should not expect to receive this vaccine for their practice. 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 for 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, using a separate needle and syringe.

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**

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.

### **Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Billing for Influenza Vaccine Administration**

It is essential for the ministry to capture specific data on influenza immunization, for purposes of program evaluation. Therefore, when billing OHIP, please select OHIP billing code for influenza immunization only rather than other immunization billing codes.

Physicians are encouraged to review the delegation requirements in the General Preamble of the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services prior to holding immunization clinics. Physicians who have concerns regarding these requirements or who have additional questions should contact their local OHIP district office.

Should you or your staff have any questions or concerns regarding the UIIP or influenza vaccines, please contact your local public health unit.

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
- Letter to Ontario Pharmacists