



## Health

Public Health Branch

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July 21, 2022

Dear Health Care Provider:

### **RE: NEW ENHANCED FLU VACCINE DISTRIBUTION MODEL & REGISTRATION PROCESS**

Manitoba is introducing a new, enhanced order and delivery model for the 2022/23 influenza season. Similar to the way physicians and pharmacists currently order their COVID-19 vaccine, the new distribution model is anticipated to increase access to influenza vaccine to all health care providers earlier and also reduce wastage by allowing for increased order frequency throughout the season.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER**

For information on the new distribution model as well as how to register for the program, please go to [www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution](http://www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution) and click on the hyperlink "CLICK HERE TO REGISTER".

We kindly ask that you **register on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>** to allow for the creation of distribution groups prior to the first delivery of flu vaccine in the fall.

If your location is not already signed up to order publicly funded vaccines of any kind, please complete the New Immunization Provider Application Form that can be found at the following link prior to registering to be a part of the influenza program:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/npaf.pdf>

#### **NEW PROCESS FOR ORDERING**

Once approved, registered health care provider locations will be split into two distribution groups based on the last digit of their Holding Point Code (AKA Client ID) and whether or not they are considered a priority location (eg. Hospitals, First Nation Communities and Long Term Care Homes). The two distribution groups will be roughly equal in size; be randomly distributed across the province and have equal proportions of different provider types (i.e. Public Health offices, pharmacists, physicians).

A link to an order survey will be sent each week to Group 1 or Group 2 via email, such that all providers have an opportunity to order vaccines every other week on alternating weeks. Providers will be asked to order based on their anticipated usage for the next 2-3 weeks, as opposed to the entire influenza season as in previous years. Orders will be reviewed and may be adjusted based on available vaccines, historical doses administered as well as any shortages or delays that may occur. A confirmation email will be sent which will include a list of

all the products to be shipped, the approved quantities, as well as an approximate timeline for when deliveries should be expected.

Providers will also be expected to communicate any special hours of operation (eg. Closed for lunch between 12-1, closed on Fridays, etc.) and whether or not they are open for Saturday deliveries. This information is extremely important and will ensure an efficient and timely delivery schedule.

## **COVID-19 & INFLUENZA VACCINE FINDER MAP**

Manitoba Health requests that health care providers continue to update their vaccine availability on the COVID-19 & Influenza Vaccine Finder Map at [www.manitoba.ca/flushotfinder](http://www.manitoba.ca/flushotfinder) on a weekly basis, at minimum. This will allow Manitoba Health to identify to the public where the vaccine is available and increase access for Manitobans looking to be immunized.

Historically speaking, manufacturers supplying Canada with influenza vaccine have experienced shortages or delays in the delivery of their vaccines for various reasons, which are beyond the control of the provinces and territories, including Manitoba. As in previous years, health care providers are encouraged to start offering influenza vaccine to their patients as soon as they receive the product. **Orders will not be expedited due to failure to ensure sufficient product on hand for scheduled appointments/clinics.**

**Please, be advised that vaccine administration supplies will not be provided for the influenza vaccine program. Providers should order as they had before the COVID-19 pandemic.**

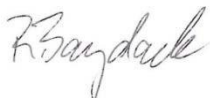
All future updates pertaining to influenza vaccine distribution/supply including shortages, and/or delays will be posted online at [www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution](http://www.manitoba.ca/fludistribution) and will also be emailed to providers at the email address provided at the time of registration.

Lastly, please take this opportunity to return any unused influenza vaccine from the 2021/22 influenza season to the Provincial Distribution Warehouse using Manitoba Health's Return Policy and Procedure, available at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/docs/vbrpp.pdf>

If you have any questions, please email [vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vaccines@gov.mb.ca). A frequently asked questions document will be posted to the [manitoba.ca/flu](http://manitoba.ca/flu) webpage.

Sincerely,



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