

Epidemiology Services BC Centre for Disease Control Society 655 W 12th Ave Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

September 11, 2002

ATTN: Medical Health Officers Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators Holders of Communicable Disease Manuals

Re: Influenza Vaccine for the 2002-2003 Season

Attached, please find information, administrative documents and policies for the upcoming influenza immunization campaign.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has issued two statements related to influenza vaccine for the 2002-2003 season. This includes a general Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2002-2003 season published in the Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) on August 1, 2002 (Volume 28-ACS-5) and a Supplementary Update on Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome in Association with Influenza Vaccination published in CCDR on September 1, 2002 (Volume 28-ACS-6).

The only vaccine to be supplied to British Columbia for the upcoming public campaign is a trivalent, inactivated, split-virus preparation (Fluviral®) manufactured by Shire Biologics. Flurviral® contains the following strains:

A copy of the Flurviral® package insert for 2002-2003 is enclosed FYI.

A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2) – like A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1) – like B/Hong Kong/330/2001, a new strain for the 2002-2003 vaccine

A. Eligilibility, Administration, Dosage, Reinforcement Doses, Contraindications, Adverse Events

Please refer to the Immunization Program Manual pages 54 and 55 (dated September 2002) for details. These pages have been revised to include details related to this season's vaccine.

Administrative Circular: 2002:11

B. Vaccine Allocations

Please refer to Appendix A. The allocation of vaccine to health units for the 2002-2003 season is based on health region requests.

C. Vaccine Availability

Every effort will be made to deliver the allocated vaccine to each Health Authority in one shipment as soon as vaccine has been received in the warehouse. Please use the **"Biological Products Replenishment Report"** to request vaccine.

You are advised to keep the insulated shipping cartons in which your initial order was shipped in case redistribution of vaccine is required. Health Authorities which find they have a surplus of vaccine should promptly notify BCCDC biologicals desk by fax 604-775-2718. The biologicals desk will advise you regarding the management of the surplus vaccine.

D. Last Season 2001-2002 Vaccine

Any influenza vaccine remaining from last year's program should be disposed of locally. This MUST be done before receipt of the new vaccine stock.

E. Vaccine Utilization

Please take note of the Influenza Vaccine Request Form 2003/2004 (Appendix B). Information on this form is required to place an order for the 2003-2004 season. Please complete and return the form to the Biologicals Desk, Pharmacy Services, BC Centre for Disease Control Society by the end of February 2003.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Immunization Program Manual:

Pages 54 and 55

Dated September 2001

Insert the following replacement pages:

Pages 54 and 55

Dated September 2002

F. Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Policy

Enclosed is an updated version of the Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Policy. Please replace previous versions with this most current document dated September 2002. Changes include reference to update of influenza immunization for newly admitted or transferred residents who were unimmunized or whose immunization status is unknown any time during the influenza season. Emphasis has also been placed on the role of the Medical Health Officer in determining whether illness in a facility constitutes an outbreak of influenza.

An updated version of the Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Policy Questions and Answers is also enclosed. Recommendations for persons who experienced ORS have been updated.

G. Letter to Persons Who Experienced ORS following Influenza Vaccine

A one-page information sheet to guide decision-making around re-vaccination of persons who experienced ORS following influenza vaccination is also included.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Danuta Skowronski Physician Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Services, BC Centre for Disease Control Society at 604-660-5693 or <u>danuta.skowronski@bccdc.ca</u>

Sincerely,

David Patrick Director Epidemiology Services BC Centre for Disease Control Society

DMP/kka

pc: Dr. Perry Kendall Provincial Health Officer Ministry of Health Services

> Dr. Bob Fisk Medical Consultant Non-Communicable Disease Services

Jane Crickmore Public Health Nursing Consultant Disease and Injury Prevention Branch Dr. Shaun Peck Deputy Provincial Health Officer Ministry of Health Services

Lorna Storbakken Director Disease and Injury Prevention Branch Ministry of Health Planning