



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

August 22, 2005

**ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals**

Re: Influenza Vaccine for the 2005-2006 Season

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) "Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2005-2006 Season" has been published in the Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) June 15, 2005 Volume 31 ACS-6 and is available at: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/05vol31/asc-dcc-6/index.html

Two vaccine brands will be supplied to British Columbia for the upcoming public campaign. These vaccines are both trivalent, inactivated, split-virus preparations. One is manufactured by ID Biomedical (Fluviral® S/F), and the other by Sanofi-pasteur (Vaxigrip®). Both vaccines contain the following influenza virus strains:

A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)
A/New York/55/2004 (H3N2)
B/Jiangsu/10/2003

**1.0 Communicable Disease Manual: Chapter 2 – Immunization Program
(Section VII - Biological Products):**

Please note the following changes to the Immunization Program:

- (1) There are two additional groups eligible for publicly-funded influenza vaccine:
- Adults and children with any condition that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk of aspiration. Such conditions may include cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, and neuromuscular disorders.
 - Inmates of provincial correctional facilities

Administrative Circular # 2005:08



(2) Thimerosal-reduced Vaxigrip® is to be provided to:

- children 6 – 23 months of age
- pregnant or breastfeeding women in high risk groups
- pregnant women in their third trimester if they are expected to deliver during the influenza season

(3) Thimerosal- free Vaxigrip® can be provided to persons with a history of anaphylaxis to thimerosal. It must be ordered on a dose by dose basis from the BCCDC Biologicals Desk.

2.0 Vaccine Availability

Vaccine availability will be announced through the Health Authorities' designated Influenza Coordinators. BCCDC is working with the suppliers and the Public Works and Government Services Canada to establish availability and distribution schedules.

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

3.0 Last Season 2004-2005 Vaccine

Do not use the formulation from 2004-2005 for the 2005-2006 influenza vaccination campaign. Do not destroy any vaccines locally. All influenza vaccine remaining from the previous year's program should be returned to the BCCDC warehouse as soon as possible upon BCCDC authorization. For instruction on completing the Field Return form, please contact the BCCDC Biological's desk at 604-660-5692.

Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Manual: Chapter 2 – Immunization Program (Section VII - Biological Products):

Page 31
Page 32
Page 32a

Dated November 24 2004
Dated October 1 2004
Dated October 2004

Insert the following replacement pages in the Communicable Disease Manual: Chapter 2 – Immunization Program (Section VII - Biological Products):

Pages 31, 32, and 32a

Dated August 2005

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Services, BC Centre for Disease Control at 604-660-6061 or karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

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Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control
DMP/kka

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