



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

August 18, 2006

**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 2006-2007 Season

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) "Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2006-2007 Season" has been published in the Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) June 15, 2006 Volume 32 ACS-7 and is available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/06vol32/acs-07/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/GSK (Fluviral® S/F), and the other by Sanofi-Pasteur (Vaxigrip®).

NACI recommends that the trivalent vaccine for the 2006-2007 season in Canada contain A/New Caledonia/ 20/99 (H1N1)-like, an A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like and a B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus strains. Vaccine producers may use antigenically equivalent strains because of their growth properties. The influenza strain A/Hiroshima/52/2005 is antigenically equivalent to influenza A/Wisconsin/67/2005 virus strain.

Vaccines to be marketed in Canada for the 2006-2007 influenza season will contain:

A/New Caledonia /20/99 (H1N1),
A/Hiroshima/52/2005 (H3N2) or A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)
B/Malaysia/2506/2004

Administrative Circular # 2006:09



1.0 Vaccine Availability

As of this date, both ID Biomedical/GSK and Sanofi Pasteur, manufacturers of the supply of annual influenza vaccine for Canadian publicly-funded programs, have told governments that vaccine is expected to be delivered between October 31st and November 6th. Both manufacturers have had difficulty growing enough of the seed strain for this year's vaccine. Health authorities have been informed of the new delivery date.

Solvay Pharma, the manufacturer for private sale vaccine, is still expected to deliver vaccine at the usual time this year (late September/early October); the vaccine will be ready to administer to people at private clinics, doctors' offices and through employer programs by mid-October. Solvay Pharma did not have the same difficulty with growing the seed strain since they started production earlier using the first seed strain received from the World Health Organization.

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.

2.0 Last Season 2005-2006 Vaccine

Do not use the formulation from 2005-2006 for the 2006-2007 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.

3.0 Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII - Biological Products:

Page 31, Influenza Vaccine Indications:

- Clarification: influenza vaccine is recommended and provided free to people working with *live* poultry and/or swine (due to potential interchange of influenza viruses)

Page 32a:

- Thimerosal-free vaccine is not available this season.

Pages 32 and 32b have been re-dated.

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

Pages 31 & 32a
Page 32
Page 32b

Dated October 2005
Dated August 2005
Dated November 2005

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

Pages 31, 32, 32a and 32b

Dated August 2006

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,

David Patrick, Director
Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control
DMP/sk

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

Dr. Eric Young
Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health Services

Dr. Bob Fisk
Medical Consultant
Non-Communicable Disease

Craig Thompson
Manager, CD Prevention - Immunization
Ministry of Health Services

Warren O'Briain
Executive Director
Comm Disease and Addiction Prevention
Ministry of Health Services