



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

September 11, 2008

**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 2008-2009 Season**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) "Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2008-2009 Season" has been published in the Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) July 15, 2008 Volume 34 ACS-3 and is available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/08vol34/acs-3/index-eng.php>

Three vaccine brands will be supplied to British Columbia for the upcoming public campaign. Two of these vaccines are trivalent, inactivated, split-virus preparations. One is manufactured by GSK (Fluviral® S/F), and the other by Sanofi-Pasteur (Vaxigrip®). A limited supply of INFLUVAC™ (Solvay Pharma) vaccine will be made available to those who have a history of anaphylactic reaction to thimerosal.

**The influenza vaccines to be marketed in Canada for the 2008-09 season will contain: an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Uruguay/716/2007 (H3N2)-like virus [antigenically equivalent to A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)], and a B/Florida/4/2006 (Yamagata lineage)-like virus.**

In the event that redistribution of influenza vaccine is required, please 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 Biologicals desk by fax 604-775-2718. The biologicals desk will advise regarding the management of any surplus vaccine.

**Administrative Circular # 2008:08**



## **Last Season 2007-08 Vaccine**

Do not use the formulation from 2007-08 for the 2008-09 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 as soon as possible upon BCCDC authorization. For instruction on completing the Field Return form, please contact the BCCDC Biologicals desk at 604-660-5692.

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

### **Page 34, Influenza Vaccine Indications:**

- Added to Sub-category “(2) People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk”: “Those who provide care or service in potential outbreak settings housing high risk persons (e.g., crew on ships)”
- Added: Footnote 1: “Large-scale studies have shown no association between childhood vaccination with thimerosal-containing vaccines and neurodevelopmental outcomes, including autistic-spectrum disorders. There is insufficient evidence related to administration of thimerosal-containing vaccines in pregnancy, although any risk, if at all, is theoretical. To further lessen this theoretical risk, Vaxigrip® may be offered preferentially to pregnant women. Where Vaxigrip® is not available, Fluviral® should be given if indicated.” This is a change from previous guidelines that indicated Vaxigrip® was available for preferential use in both pregnant women *and* children aged 6 to 23 months.

### **Pages 35, 36, and 37**

- Thimerosal content of Fluviral® and Vaxigrip® has been quantified.
- Footnotes have been updated and reordered for internal consistency.

### **Page 36**

- Amended: Vaxigrip® indications: “Preferential use in pregnant women. Vaxigrip® may be administered to other eligible groups to use up remaining doses in a vial post-puncture.
- Added: Adverse Events: “Fever, malaise, and myalgia 6-12 hours following vaccination and lasting 1-2 days, especially in individuals receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.”
- For internal consistency, moved following sentence from footnotes to “Special Considerations:” “Discard multi-dose vials 7 days after first entry.”

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

Pages 34, 35, 36, & 37

Dated February 2008

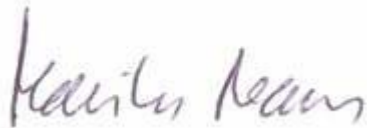
**Insert the following replacement pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

Pages 34, 35, 36, & 37

Dated September 2008

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Danuta Skowronski, Physician Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Services, BC Centre for Disease Control at Phone: 604-660-6061 or e-mail: [Danuta.skowronski@bccdc.ca](mailto:Danuta.skowronski@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,



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Epidemiology Services  
B C Centre for Disease Control

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Ministry of Health Services

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