

**Ministry of Health and
Long-Term Care**

Chief Medical Officer of Health

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September 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fee-For-Service Providers Administering Influenza Vaccine

RE: Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) - 2013/2014

This letter is to provide you with information on Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) for 2013/2014. It is directed to all health care providers that administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to clients and bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for this service or who are paid by the province through means other than the UIIP. Health care providers who do not bill OHIP or are not already paid through some other provincial funding should refer to the letter addressed to *Regulated Health Care Professionals Holding Reimbursable Influenza Immunization Community Clinics OR Non-Reimbursable Influenza Immunization Clinics in Ontario* and see section on information specific for non-reimbursable clinics (enclosed).

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) UIIP 2013/2014 Recommendations

- All individuals aged 6 months or older who live, work or attend school in Ontario, and who have no contraindications, are encouraged to receive the publicly funded influenza vaccine.
- Individuals in the following high risk groups are strongly encouraged to receive the publicly funded influenza vaccine through the UIIP:
 - persons at high-risk of influenza related complications or those more likely to require hospitalization; *now including all children 6 to 59 months of age*;
 - those capable of transmitting influenza to individuals at high-risk;
 - those who provide essential community services; and
 - those in direct contact during culling operations with poultry infected with avian influenza.

Influenza Vaccine Supply for the 2013/2014 UIIP

Vaccines	Vaxigrip®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• produced by Sanofi Pasteur• trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) in multi-dose vial
	Agriflu®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• produced by Novartis• TIV in pre-loaded single dose syringe
	Fluviral®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• produced by GlaxoSmithKline• TIV in multi-dose vial

As in previous years, distribution of publicly funded influenza vaccines will be incremental throughout the province. You will be notified by your local public health unit when the vaccine is available.

Agriflu® and Vaxigrip®/Fluviral® are considered to be equivalent vaccines and will be dispensed based on supply as opposed to vaccine specific requests.

Vaccine Order Form

Health care providers may place orders with their vaccine supply source (i.e., public health unit outside the “M” area code or Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service [OGPMSS] within the “M” area code) by completing and submitting the enclosed *Influenza Vaccine Order Form for the UIIP*. To ensure that your order is filled, please complete all required fields.

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) Billing for Influenza Vaccine Administration

It is essential for the ministry to capture data on influenza immunization for purposes of program evaluation. Therefore, when billing OHIP, please select the OHIP billing code for influenza immunization rather than other immunization billing codes.

Physicians are encouraged to review the delegation requirements in the General Preamble of the [Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services](#) prior to holding immunization clinics. Physicians who have concerns regarding these requirements or who have additional questions should contact their local OHIP district office.

Additional Important Resources and Information:

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2013-2014* is available on the [Public Health Agency of Canada's](#) website.
- Anaphylaxis Management is included in the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).
- [Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFIs\)](#) must be reported to your [public health unit](#).
- [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) describes the provincial requirements that must be followed by all healthcare providers who handle publicly funded vaccines.
- Promotional materials and publications for the UIIP will be available from [Service Ontario](#).
- Program materials such as the vaccine order form and UIIP Manual are available from the [ministry's](#) website.

Should you or your staff have any questions or concerns regarding the UIIP or influenza vaccines, please contact your [local public health unit](#).

Original signed by

Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health

- c. Medical Officers of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Units
Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Program Managers, Public Health Units
Erik Wiersma, A/Manager, OGPMSS, Customer Service

Attachments:

- Letter to Regulated Health Care Professionals Holding Reimbursable Influenza Immunization Community Clinics OR Non-Reimbursable Influenza Immunization Clinics in Ontario
- Influenza Vaccine Order Form for the UIIP
- Influenza Vaccine Fact Sheet