

Influenza Update-October, 2011

VACCINE:

- The annual seasonal flu shot is available to all Manitobans at no charge. It is especially important for those at increased risk of serious illness from influenza, their caregivers and close contacts. The 2011/12 NACI statement on seasonal influenza vaccine is available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/11vol37/acs-dcc-5/index-eng.php>
- Please refer to the letter from Manitoba Health on changes to the 2011-2012 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program dated October 4, 2011 for information on:
 - Full dose (0.5 mL) of TIV in children 6 to 35 months of age.
 - TIV in egg-allergic individuals.

Individuals at higher risk of severe allergic reactions will not be immunized in public clinics and will be referred to a health care provider for further assessment.

- Two inactivated influenza vaccines are available through the provincial program - Fluviral[®] and Agriflu[™]. Requests may occur for other non-funded influenza vaccines from patients looking for needle-free or other alternatives (e.g., FluMist[®], or Intanza[®]). Product information is available in the NACI statement (see table page 12). Individuals are responsible for the cost of purchasing these vaccines through a pharmacy.
- WRHA public immunization clinics will occur from Tuesday October 18 to Saturday Oct 22 in 12 sites (four on Saturday). Site locations and times, as well as other resources, are posted on: <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/a-z/influenza/index.php>
- Outreach immunization clinics are planned for the week(s) following the large public clinics. Homecare staff will be immunizing homebound individuals. Patients can also contact their local WRHA Community Area office to set up appointments for immunization. WRHA OESH will be hosting immunization clinics for health care workers at all facilities.

CLINICAL CARE:

- A guidance document for the practitioner on the use of antiviral medication, developed for 2010/11 by the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada (AMMI Canada), is available at: <http://www.ammi.ca/pdf/UseOfAntiviralDrugs.pdf>.

SURVEILLANCE:

- To enhance regional capacity to perform surveillance for influenza, the WRHA Public Health Surveillance team is recruiting "sentinel" physicians who would offer influenza testing to their symptomatic patients. \$10 compensation is offered for each eligible specimen. For more information, call 470-3160 or email strive@wrha.mb.ca.
- The below table provides information on influenza immunization uptake in the Winnipeg Region from the past 3 campaigns, with the trend showing continued increases since 08/09:

Year*	Provider Type				Total Doses	% Uptake
	Public Health	Physician	FNHIH	Other		
2010/2011	31,347	96,608	649	26,249	154,853	22.0%
2009/2010	59,351	70,966	311	15,946	146,574	21.2%
2008/2009	21,600	85,298	340	23,474	130,712	19.1%

Please send any feedback you have on this update to physicianinfo@wrha.mb.ca. As a reminder, any physician wishing to consult on a public health issue can reach a WRHA Medical Officer of Health at 940-3607 during normal business hours, or the on call provincial MOH at 788-8666 after business hours.

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