

**Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2022-2023: Bulletin #3**

**Rising influenza activity:** Influenza activity began early this fall in BC and continues to increase (see detailed report at [bccdc.shinyapps.io/respiratory\\_pathogen\\_characterization](https://bccdc.shinyapps.io/respiratory_pathogen_characterization)). In addition, influenza illness is also being reported in young children, who are at greater risk of serious illness and hospitalization from influenza than healthy older children and adults.

As influenza waves are fairly brief in duration (approximately 6-8 weeks long), and it takes two weeks to gain protection from the vaccine, we ask you to proactively invite young children within your practices to be immunized against influenza as soon as possible, preferably over the next week. Children of all ages are eligible and recommended to be immunized. Those at highest risk include children 6 months to 5 years of age, and older children with underlying chronic medical conditions. Vaccine should also be offered to pregnant women at all stages of pregnancy.

**Vaccines for children:** We still have limited quantities of vaccine available for ordering. Vaccine products for children include Fluzone™ Quadrivalent (≥ 6 months of age), Flulaval™ Tetra (≥ 6 months of age), and Flumist™ (2-17 years of age). If your office has run out of vaccine, please place an order immediately (for use prior to Christmas), or check with a neighbouring practice to see if they still have vaccine available.

Thank you for immunizing young children and pregnant women. Please also continue to immunize other individuals, including those at high risk from influenza, including seniors and adults 18-64 years of age with underlying health conditions.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900  
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

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