

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2020-2021: Bulletin #4 Status Update

We are now five weeks into the current influenza vaccination campaign, and want to thank everyone for the continued efforts in immunizing your communities. This season has seen an unprecedented demand for flu vaccine, with over 500,000 doses of Vancouver Coastal's total allocation distributed to date. As a result, we do not have the supply to distribute any further vaccine to community providers at this time.

We fully acknowledge that many of you have been requesting more vaccine without success; we have unfilled order requests exceeding 50,000 doses. The next shipment is scheduled to arrive in late November or early December, but this will not meet the demand of current outstanding orders.

We are working with the Divisions of Family Practice to identify the most pragmatic solution to ensure your patients are immunized.

Here are the current recommendations:

1. Please review the amount and type of influenza vaccine available in your inventory. Many of these products can be used across different age groups. Please use them liberally as per the product monograph and the influenza quick reference shared previously.
2. Do not book new influenza clinics for your patients in excess of product you have on hand.
3. If you do not have adequate supply for currently booked immunizations, please reach out to the Division of Family Practice AND your fellow physicians, to see if there is vaccine that can be liberated for these booked appointments.
4. If you have more vaccine than patients booked, please reach out to the Division of Family Practice so product can be redistributed.
5. We request that you direct your questions or concerns to your Division of Family Practice, rather than your local health unit. If you need to contact us directly, please reach out to CDCVaccines@vch.ca.

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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