

## Immunization program update

**Influenza Campaign:** We have now received a shipment of influenza vaccine from the BCCDC and expect to receive additional quantities (with a German label) by the middle of December. If you would like to receive more vaccine, please submit an order to your local health unit. We will do our best to distribute equitably to ordering offices.

**Reminder about influenza vaccine product interchangeability:** Many influenza vaccines can be used across several age groups. Please use them liberally as per the product monograph or the influenza quick reference shared previously.

**Infant/childhood immunizations:** Public health immunization clinics are now unable to keep up with childhood immunizations (ages 0-5 years) as our staff are increasingly becoming involved with COVID-19 case and contact follow up. We request physician offices to please resume vaccination of your young patients, if you have not already, and for those working in walk in clinics to consider offering childhood immunizations as a routine service.

**Tdap for pregnant women:** A pertussis booster in every pregnancy is now publicly funded in British Columbia and vaccine is available for ordering from your local public health unit. This vaccine can be administered from 13 weeks gestation to delivery, though ideally recommended for administration between 27-32 weeks of gestation. Please immunize your pregnant patients irrespective of prior Tdap immunization history.

**COVID-19 vaccination campaign:** We are excited to report that planning is now underway for COVID-19 vaccination campaign with small quantities of the Pfizer vaccine expected to arrive by January. Doses will arrive in increments and will be administered according to a national and provincial population-based prioritization schedule. As the initial vaccines are frozen and require storage at ultra low temperatures (-70° or -20° C), we likely won't be in a position to distribute vaccine to community offices until we have sufficient quantities of fridge stable products. We will keep you informed of further developments.

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

Chief Medical Health Officer: Dr. Patricia Daly

Vancouver: Dr. Alex Choi, Dr. Althea Hayden, Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Dr. Michael Schwandt 604.675.3900

Richmond: Dr. Meena Dawar 604.233.3150 | North Shore & Coast Rural: Dr. John Harding 604.983.6701 | Regional: Dr. Geoff McKee 604.983.6701

To receive Physicians' Updates by email please contact us at: [VCHPhysiciansUpdate@vch.ca](mailto:VCHPhysiciansUpdate@vch.ca)