

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: October 26, 2020

RE: High demand for flu vaccine

QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario Ministry of Health determines flu vaccine allotments across the province. Halton Region Public Health distributes the vaccine to health care providers as soon as it is received and processed.
- This year, there is an exceptionally high interest in receiving the flu vaccine and while this is good news, we want to remind health care providers and the public to be patient during the distribution process.
- As outlined in the [UIIP letter from the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#), health care providers wishing to conduct, large-scale influenza vaccination clinics should wait until November to ensure an adequate supply of vaccine can be ordered.
- Halton Region Public Health's resource [Influenza Immunizing During COVID-19](#) provides guidance on planning and implementation of influenza vaccine clinics for your patient population in early November.
- If you are planning large-scale influenza clinics, ensure adequate vaccine availability by assessing your inventory, and placing an [online order](#) at least two weeks in advance. There is no guarantee that you will receive the amount you have requested as Public Health supply is limited to what is received from the Ministry.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- While all UIIP participants can begin immunizing as soon as supply is received, it is important to remember that re-orders cannot occur until the provincial supply is replenished through additional shipments from manufacturers.
- Continue to use the [online vaccine order form](#) to order influenza vaccine. Orders require 3 full business days for processing, and are subject to ordering deadlines and vaccine product availability.
- With flu season usually hitting in early December, you can remind your patients that it is reasonable to wait until November to receive the flu vaccine. They can also receive influenza vaccine from pharmacies.
- Based on historical usage, over 90% of flu vaccines are administered by the end of December.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2020/21 Universal Influenza Immunization Program Package](#), Ministry of Ontario
- More influenza and routine vaccine ordering information is available on the [Vaccine Information for Physicians](#) page on [halton.ca/physicians](#).

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.