Influenza Season 2021 Preparation

Ensure your pharmacy has a process in place to determine appropriate age for the influenza vaccine BEFORE administration – 5 years old and older.

Ensure proper storage of vaccines and handling protocols are in place. See Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport Guidelines as well as a recent article Emergency Plan for Proper Drug and Vaccine Storage.

Dual vaccinations require greater care and attention to ensure vaccine dose volumes and needles are verified as correct before administration i.e., using a divided tray and keeping the vials separate, etc.

As per DPEBB policy, consent can be written or verbal. For further information on consent and substitute decision makers, please review Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives and Substitute Decision Makers FAQs and Guidelines.

Storage, Handling and Control

Immunizers

UPDATE

Pharmacy technicians, pharmacist interns (extended/student), and formerly licensed pharmacists are able to administer publicly-funded flu vaccines as approved by the Ministry of Health. For the complete list of non-traditional Influenza immunizers, please click here.

See these Immunizer FAQs for more details. These immunizers are enabled by the emergency provisions to the Disease Control Regulations, valid until March 31, 2022.

Vaccine Intervals

The Ministry of Health has advised that intervals between COVID-19 vaccine and other Health Canada approved vaccines are no longer required.

Adverse Events

Ensuring you have a process for AEFI reporting, safe post immunization monitoring, and up to date anaphylaxis kits and policies.

SIM, SIIP

Ensure you are familiar with the SIM, SIIP and DPEBB policy with respect to the publicly funded influenza vaccine program.