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June 14, 2018

RE: 2018/19 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) and Pneumococcal Immunization Program

All Manitobans 6 months of age and older will be eligible to receive the 2018/19 seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine free-of-charge. Individuals 65 years of age and older as well as those at most risk for invasive pneumococcal disease are eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide (Pneu-P-23) vaccine free-of-charge. Some people living with certain medical conditions require a second dose; please refer to Manitoba's *Eligibility Criteria for Publicly-Funded Vaccines* at: www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html.

Providers/facilities can start placing their flu and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine order between August 15 and September 14, 2018, using *The Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Order Form* (www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/distribution.html). **Orders received prior to August 15th will NOT be accepted and will need to be resubmitted on, or after, August 15, 2018.**

All flu/Pneu-P-23 vaccine orders will be shipped according to the following schedule:

1. hospitals, long-term care facilities and First Nations communities
2. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 0, 1, 2 or 3
3. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 4, 5 or 6
4. providers/facilities with client ID (holding point #) ending in 7, 8 or 9
5. providers/facilities that order after 4 p.m. on September 14, 2018.

All providers/facilities **MUST** order based on the amount administered last year to reduce wastage. **Failure to reconcile vaccine doses ordered with administered may result in providers/facilities receiving fewer doses than ordered.** It is therefore paramount that all flu vaccine doses administered be reported to MHSAL. **Flu vaccine wastage should be less than 10% at the end of the season.** Subsequent orders can be placed (at no penalty to the provider/facility), while supplies last.

Flu vaccine information specifically for long-term care facilities can be found online at: www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/index.html.

All future updates pertaining to flu vaccine distribution/supply including shortages, delays and approx. dates of when all providers/facilities should expect to receive their flu vaccine shipment, will be posted online at: www.manitoba.ca/health/flu/distribution.html.

Please refer to The Interim Program Plan: Manitoba's 2018/19 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program at: www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/docs/msiipp.pdf.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
Communicable Disease Control

"Original signed by"

Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC
Medical Lead, Vaccines
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