

## **UIIP Vaccine Supply**

**Date: January 22, 2019**

### **Email to Pharmacists**

Dear Pharmacist:

This letter is to provide an update on influenza vaccine supply in relation to the province's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) for the 2018/2019 influenza season.

### **Inventory Strategies for Effective Use of Influenza Vaccine**

Weekly ordering limits for quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIV) have been put in place over the last several weeks, which will continue to be used for the remainder of the flu season to maximize the use of the vaccines that are currently in the community. Current ordering limit is 1 to 2 units (10 to 20 doses) per week.

The weekly % threshold of doses remaining at the pharmacy will continue to be implemented and those pharmacies with 10% or more doses remaining will not be able to order additional doses.

To ensure that the % remaining at the pharmacy is accurately reflected, we encourage pharmacies to submit for reimbursement through the ministry's Health Network System (HNS) by Wednesday of every week in order to ensure that administration and inventory information is up to date.

### **Public Access to Influenza Vaccines for the Remainder of the Flu Season**

As there are a large number of QIV doses (estimated at between 300,000 and 350,000 doses) in the fridges of pharmacies and primary care provider offices across the province, local public health units will be assisting residents in finding locations where vaccine stock is available.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Influenza Activity in Ontario and Canada**

At the national level, for the week of January 6 to 12, the number of influenza cases continued to decline sharply from the previous week confirming that the influenza season reached peak levels in the last week of December. In Ontario, cases also decreased for the week of January 6 to 12. Influenza A is the most common flu strain circulating in the province and Canada, with the majority of cases being A(H1N1)pdm09.

## **Provincial Vaccine Supply Update**

- The total number of influenza vaccine doses purchased for the province was increased to 4.57 million doses (up from 4.4M) in order to meet the early and increased demand.
- Quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (Q-LAIV; nasal spray vaccine) has been out of stock at the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supply Service (OGPMSS) since late November.
- High-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (high-dose TIV) remains available for order at OGPMSS by Toronto providers and public health units.
- If demand continues at the same rate, OGPMSS stock of quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIV) is expected to be depleted by the end of this week, January 20 to 26, 2019.
  - As a result, once distributors have exhausted their vaccine supply, there will be no additional doses available for ordering for the remainder of the season.

## **Historical Influenza Vaccine Administration Data**

- As of the third week in January, approximately 96% of influenza doses have been administered.
- Approximately 200,000 doses remain to be administered between January and the end of the influenza season.

We wish to thank you for the important role that you play as a health care provider in delivering the province's UIIP and protecting Ontarians against the flu.

If you have questions regarding vaccine availability, please contact your distributor for pharmacies located outside of Toronto, or OGPMSS for pharmacies located within Toronto (M-postal code).

If your clients are seeking influenza immunization, they may contact the local public health unit. A list of public health units can be found here:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>

For all other questions, please contact us at [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Universal Influenza Immunization Program  
Immunization Policy and Programs Unit  
Health Protection and Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch  
Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
E: [UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca](mailto:UIIP.MOH@ontario.ca)