



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

September 4, 2025

RE: 2025-26 Respiratory Illness Immunization Program – Vaccine Products & Eligibility

Dear Health Care Provider,

As the 2025–26 respiratory illness season approaches, please review the following important updates regarding influenza and COVID-19 vaccine products, eligibility criteria, and ordering procedures.

INFLUENZA VACCINES

All influenza vaccines offered this season will be trivalent. Please refer to the table below for product details:

Flu vaccine Type	Eligibility	Product	Format	Doses per vial/box
Standard dose	6 months and older	Fluzone	Multi-dose Vial	10/vial
		Fluviral (NEW)	Multi-dose Vial	10/vial
		Fluzone	Pre-filled Syringe	10/ box
		Flucelvax (NEW)	Pre-filled Syringe	10/box
Enhanced (see below)	65 years and older	Fluzone HD	Pre-filled Syringe	5/box
		Fluad (NEW)	Pre-filled Syringe	10/box

Important: **Vaccines will be allocated based on availability, ensuring that all age groups receive appropriate doses. This approach helps streamline the allocation process and ensures efficient use of the available vaccine products.*

Enhanced Influenza Vaccines for Ages 65+

This fall, Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care will offer two enhanced influenza vaccines for individuals aged 65 and older:

- **Fluzone® High-Dose (HD)**
- **Fluad® (adjuvanted)**

These vaccines are formulated to provide a stronger immune response in older adults, who are at an increased risk of severe complications from influenza.

Fluzone® High-Dose (Fluzone® HD) will be available for the following adults aged 65 and older who are at the highest risk of severe outcomes from influenza, including:

- Residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF), including new and unimmunized residents admitted during flu season
- Residents of supported and assisted living facilities
- Clients in interim or transitional care beds
- Clients receiving homecare services while awaiting admission to an LTCF
- Indigenous Manitobans, regardless of residence
- Individuals living in remote or isolated communities or north of the 53rd parallel
- Individuals in provincial correctional facilities, including newly incarcerated individuals or those transferred from federal or out-of-province correctional facilities
- Community-dwelling individuals aged 80 years and older

Fluad® (Adjuvanted Vaccine) will be available for all community-dwelling individuals aged 65-79 years.

In cases where the appropriate vaccine is unavailable, we encourage offering an alternative flu vaccine to ensure the client receives timely vaccination to support an optimal immune response.

Please note that if an individual has already received a standard-dose influenza vaccine and is eligible for an enhanced vaccine (either Fluzone® HD or Fluad®), administering an additional dose of the enhanced vaccine during the same flu season is not recommended.

The Enhanced Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Fact Sheet is available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/enhanced_flu.pdf.

COVID-19 VACCINES

Only mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed for the 2025–26 season. Please refer to the table below for product details:

Age group	Product	Format	Doses per vial/box	2–8°C Stability
12yrs+	Moderna Spikevax	Multi-dose Vial	5/vial	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C
	Moderna Spikevax	Pre-Filled Syringe	10/box	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C
	Pfizer Comirnaty	Multi-dose Vial	6/vial	70 days in fridge once removed from -80C
	Pfizer Comirnaty	Pre-Filled Syringe	10/box	8 months in fridge once removed from -20C

Age group	Product	Format	Doses per vial/box	2–8°C Stability
5 to <12yrs	Pfizer Comirnaty	Single Dose Vial	1/vial	70 days in fridge once removed from -80C
6m to <12yrs	Moderna Spikevax	Multi-dose Vial	10/vial	50 days in fridge once removed from -20C

All COVID-19 vaccines will be delivered thawed and should be placed in a temperature monitored fridge. Do not place in the freezer.

Important: This will be the first year that Manitoba is directly funding COVID-19 vaccines. To ensure continued availability and responsible use of public resources, minimizing vaccine waste is a critical priority.

To help prevent vaccine wastage:

- Order strategically: base your requests on last season's usage and anticipated demand
- Monitor inventory regularly: keep track of your vaccine stock using your organization's preferred method or system (PHIMS if applicable).
- Store properly: maintain cold chain to prevent spoilage due to temperature excursions.
- Group appointments: schedule clients in clusters to ensure full use of multi-dose vials once opened. However, if opportunity is available to immunize at the point of contact those who may not otherwise get immunized, please offer and administer the vaccines. Preferentially use single dose vials/syringes when you do not expect to administer multiple doses, e.g. at the end of the day.

Refer to online resources that can help with information on the products (e.g., COVID-19/Influenza/ Pneumococcal Vaccine Quick Reference Guide and Vaccine Comparison Chart) available at www.manitoba.ca/respiratoryviruses/resources-hcp.html.

Action checklist:

- ✓ [Register](#) for the 2025-26 Respiratory Illness Immunization Program
- ✓ Update your location's contact information (use a shared mailbox if possible)
- ✓ Watch for the upcoming vaccine order survey
- ✓ Ensure cold chain compliance (do not refreeze COVID-19 vaccines)
- ✓ Report immunizations promptly
- ✓ Keep vaccine inventory up-to-date
- ✓ [Return](#) all expired or unused vaccines from last season to MDA

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is recommended only for individuals who show consistent symptoms and are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and who require confirmation of infection to guide medical care (such as treatment).

Provincial Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

The Provincial Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report offers valuable data on COVID-19 and influenza in Manitoba. The interactive dashboard includes case counts, trends, severe outcomes,

test volumes and positivity, outbreaks, syndromic data, and vaccine monitoring. This information is available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/surveillance/influenza/index.html>.

Please share this to all within your facility. If you have any questions or require assistance, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of Manitobans throughout the 2025-26 respiratory illness season.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed by”

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