

## **Request to Continue to Offer Flu Vaccine - Influenza Activity High in Simcoe Muskoka**

**Attention:** Participating Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) Pharmacies, NSM LHIN, Central LHIN

**Date:** January 12, 2017

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**The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is recommending that pharmacies participating in the UIIP continue to offer the influenza vaccine. We are still seeing demand for influenza vaccine in our communities.**

Influenza A activity is now high locally and across the province which is typical for this time of year. Influenza activity will likely continue to be high in the coming weeks with the possibility of a second wave sometime between February and April. The vaccine appears to be a good match this season, and we are continuing to recommend that those who have not be immunized do so.

**Influenza vaccine that you currently have in your fridges is not able to be returned and recirculated, so it is recommended that you keep it in stock and continue to administer it to those who would like it.**

Any influenza vaccine that is not used by the end of the flu season, needs to be returned to your local health unit office with an accompanying Vaccine Return Form which can be found on our Immunization - Forms section on the Primary Care Portal: <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/JFY/PCPortal/PCPCategories/Immunization.aspx>

If you have decided to stop offering the influenza vaccine, please connect with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care at [uiip.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:uiip.moh@ontario.ca) to have your location removed from the Flu Clinic Location Tool on their website.

You can follow local influenza activity at [www.smdhu.org/WeeklyFluNews](http://www.smdhu.org/WeeklyFluNews) where you can also subscribe to the weekly email summaries and updates.

For any questions regarding influenza vaccines please contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.