

Health **FAX**

Temporary Suspension of Distribution of Fluad and Agriflu

Attention: **Physicians, Hospitals, Nurse Practitioners, Long-Term Care Facilities, Rest & Retirement Homes, Pharmacies & Walk-in Clinics**

Date: October 29, 2012

The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada have been made aware of a voluntary suspension of use in Europe, of two vaccines, Agriflu and Fluad: both of these vaccines manufactured by Novartis, are also used in Canada. The problem that has been identified, known as clumping, is the appearance of white particles. Clumping has been seen before in vaccines, with no observed impact on vaccine safety.

As a precautionary step, Health Canada has asked Novartis to suspend distribution of Agriflu and Fluad and the use of these vaccines by Health Care Providers until a full review of the situation is completed.

This is not a recall of either vaccine, however, the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario has issued directions to that until further notice all healthcare providers are not to administer either Agriflu or Fluad vaccine until the review has been completed.

- Please continue to store these vaccines under cold chain conditions and label **Do Not Use** until this situation is resolved.
- Currently, re-immunization is not recommended.

Health Canada rigorously reviews all vaccines for safety and effectiveness before they are authorized for use in Canada. Neither Health Canada nor the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care have received any reports of serious unexpected adverse event related to these vaccines.

There are other influenza vaccines available: both Fluviral and Vaxigrip are publicly funded and can be used as an alternate annual influenza vaccine. Both of these products can be ordered through the usual process.

We will keep you informed about options and direction as more information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please contact the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program or Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or extension 8806.