

Immunization Program Updates

Attention: Physicians; Nurse Practitioners; Walk-in Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics; Family Health Teams; Midwives, Long-Term Care Facilities; Rest & Retirement Homes; Hospitals; Correctional Facilities; Beausoleil Health Centre; Rama First Nation; Moose Deer Point First Nation; Wahta First Nation; Participating UIIP Health Care Agencies; NSM LHIN; Central LHIN

Date: October 8, 2020

Primary Care Health Care Providers: High-Dose TIV Supply Update

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) has received a small portion of our High-Dose TIV (HD TIV) allotment for our initial shipment. As a result, we are only able to provide up to 10 doses of HD TIV per MD/NP for **initial** orders. **We have been reassured that HD TIV is in good supply and we will be receiving more mid-October.**

We ask that you do not place a second order for HD TIV until the week of October 19th. Orders received by **Wednesday, October 21st will be ready for pick-up **Wednesday, October 28th**. Orders will be filled based on local supply of HD TIV at that time.**

Planning Mass Immunization Flu Clinics

If you are planning a larger scale clinic, please do not schedule the clinic prior to November 2nd. This will ensure that we have sufficient stock of QIV to fill your order. Please advise us of your clinic date(s) and the number of patients booked.

Shorter Post-Influenza Vaccine Observation Period During COVID-19

The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) statement](#)ⁱ recommends that a shorter post-vaccination observation period (between 5 to 15 minutes after influenza immunization) may be considered during the COVID-19 pandemic, but only during times when appropriate physical distancing in post-vaccination waiting areas cannot otherwise be maintained due to the volume of individuals seeking immunizations; and only when the following specific conditions are met:

- The vaccine recipient has a past history of influenza vaccine receipt and no known history of severe allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis) to any component of the influenza vaccine being considered for administration.
- The vaccine recipient has no history of other immediate post-vaccination reactions (e.g. syncope with or without seizure) after receipt of any vaccines.
- The vaccine recipient is accompanied by a parent/guardian (in the case of a child) or responsible adult who will act as a chaperone to monitor the vaccine recipient for a minimum of 15 minutes after vaccination. In the case of two responsible adults, both can be vaccine recipients, if both agree to monitor the other post-vaccination.



- The vaccine recipient will not be operating a motorized vehicle or self-propelled/motorized wheeled transportation (e.g. bicycle, skateboard, rollerblades, scooter), or machinery for a minimum of 15 minutes after vaccination.
- The vaccine recipient and the parent/guardian/responsible adult are aware of when and how to seek post-vaccination advice and are given instructions on what to do if assistance and medical services are required.
- The vaccine recipient and the parent/guardian/responsible adult agree to remain in the post-vaccination waiting area for the post-vaccination observation period and to notify staff if the recipient feels or looks at all unwell before leaving. They should be informed that an individual exhibiting any symptom suggestive of an evolving Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) at the end of the shortened post-observation period necessitates a longer period of observation in the clinic.

School Based Immunization Program (Hepatitis B series, HPV series, and Menactra)

We will be offering appointment-based immunization clinics in each of our health unit offices for current Grade 8 students (2007 birth year) who missed doses during the school closures this past spring. Please direct these parents to contact us at 705-721-7520 ext. 8827 to book an appointment. Alternatively, health care providers can request these vaccines to catch-up the Grade 8 students in their offices.

Students now in Grade 7 will receive these immunizations in the 2021/2022 school year when we plan to offer the program to both Grade 7 (2009 birth year) and Grade 8 (2008 birth year) students as a means of ensuring that no students are missed.

Publicly Funded Shingles Immunization Program – Product Transition to Shingrix

Starting mid-October 2020, the Ontario publicly funded shingles immunization program will begin to transition from Zostavax® II (Merck Canada) to Shingrix (GSK). Shingrix is a recombinant subunit, adjuvanted vaccine indicated for prevention of Herpes Zoster that was authorized for use in Canada in October 2017.

Seniors ages 65 to 70 years (from their 65th birthday to the day prior to their 71st birthday) will be eligible for a 2-dose Shingrix vaccine series (the second dose is to be administered 2 to 6 months after the first dose). Further eligibility criteria:

- As a result of COVID-19, individuals born in 1949 or 1950 (i.e. 70 year olds turning 71 in 2020 or 2021) who have missed the opportunity to receive publicly funded Zostavax® II vaccine are eligible to receive Shingrix and complete the 2-dose Shingrix series by December 31, 2021.
- Seniors aged 65 to 70 years who have previously received the publicly funded Zostavax® II vaccine are not eligible for the publicly funded Shingrix series.
- Seniors aged 65 to 70 years who previously paid for a dose of Zostavax® II vaccine are eligible for the publicly funded Shingrix series.

Shingrix may be administered concomitantly with, or at any time before or after, other inactivated vaccines or live vaccines using different injection sites and separate needles and syringes. Shingrix may be given at the same time as unadjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccine. **Shingrix will be available for order from SMDHU starting the week of October 19, 2020 (for pick-up October 28, 2020).** Please note: 10 doses per package. Please order accordingly.

Current supply of Zostavax® II vaccine expires October 21, 2020. Please remove Zostavax® II from your fridge end of day October 21, and return it to your local health unit office (along with a completed [Vaccine Return Form](#)ⁱⁱ).

For more information, please review the Ministry of Health document, [Transition to Publicly Funded Shingrix® Vaccine for Ontario's Shingles \(Herpes Zoster\) Immunization Program: Information for Health Care Providers](#)ⁱⁱⁱ.

For immunization program information, support materials and forms refer to our website www.smdhu.org/pcportal or call the Immunization program, Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.

ⁱ https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-health-care-professionals/201007-naci_stmt_post-vaccination-observation-period-for-influenza-during-covid-19_v11_en_advance-copy.pdf?sfvrsn=0

ⁱⁱ https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-health-care-professionals/Vaccine_Return_Form_06.pdf?sfvrsn=0

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/shingles_hcp_qa_en.pdf