

Limited Supply of Publicly Funded Zostavax® Vaccine

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Long-Term Care Homes, Rest & Retirement Homes, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals, Correctional Facilities, Beausoliel Health Centre

Date: March 12, 2019

Due to high demand for the Zostavax® vaccine, the provincial supply of publicly funded vaccine remaining at Ontario Government Pharmacy is expected to run out before additional stock is available from the manufacturer, which is not anticipated to be until June 2019. Current and future orders for publicly funded Zostavax® vaccine may not be filled or may be reduced due to limited supply.

Until the provincial vaccine supply is replenished, priority for remaining publicly funded Zostavax® doses should be given to unimmunized individuals who are in their 70th year and will be turning 71 in the near future. Please adjust your vaccine orders to reflect this.

- Zostavax® is a live vaccine
- Contraindications include:
 - allergies to neomycin, porcine gelatin
 - primary and acquired immunocompromised states
 - recent use or are currently using immune suppressive medications
- Use caution for clients receiving low-dose immunosuppressive medications including corticosteroids. Consider expert consultation before vaccination.

Shingrix® vaccine

- **Shingrix® vaccine is not publicly funded**
- The recombinant subunit vaccine is given in two doses
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends this vaccine preferentially for individuals 50 years of age and older without contraindications.

Thank you for your patience at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.

