

# Health **FAX**

## Availability of Fluviral® for those with Allergy to Neomycin

Attention: **Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Long-Term Care Facilities, Rest & Retirement Homes, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Community Care Access Centres, Correctional Facilities, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care**

Date: November 21, 2011

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has procured a limited supply of the influenza vaccine Fluviral® for those with an anaphylactic allergy to neomycin. The other publicly-funded products for the general population - Vaxigrip and Agriflu - both contain trace amounts of neomycin and therefore are contraindicated for those with an anaphylactic allergy to this component. Due to the potential for cross-reaction for individuals with an anaphylactic allergy to another aminoglycoside antibiotic (examples include Gentamycin, Kanamycin and Streptomycin), the same recommendations as for a neomycin allergy would apply.

### **Non-anaphylactic allergy to neomycin:**

A neomycin allergy is rare and most often a contact dermatitis, a manifestation of a delayed-type (cell-mediated) immune response rather than anaphylaxis. History of delayed-type reactions to neomycin is not considered a contraindication for administration of a neomycin-containing vaccine.

The health unit has received a very limited supply of this particular vaccine. If you have a patient that has an anaphylactic allergy to neomycin, you can order a vial of Fluviral®, by contacting our **vaccine order desk at 705-721-7520 ext. 8808 or 1-888-721-7520 ext. 8808**. Fluviral® comes in a 10 dose vial and can be used for 28 days once the vial has been punctured. If you have any questions, please contact a nurse on our **VPD Health Connection Line at (same phone numbers) ext. 8806**.