

THE FLU | INFLUENZA



CANADIAN
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES
PHARMACIENS
DU CANADA

September 2013

Dear Colleagues,

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA), as a member of the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP), is pleased to provide you with the most recent and relevant information for the 2013–2014 immunization season. As pharmacists, we play an active role in preventing the spread of influenza by helping our patients and pharmacy staff make informed decisions about getting the annual flu shot.

It is estimated that 10–20% of the population becomes infected with influenza each year, with an average 20,000 hospitalizations and 4,000 deaths in Canada. Vaccination is recognized as the cornerstone for preventing or attenuating influenza. The seasonal trivalent vaccine for 2013–2014 contains three components: an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus (using A/Texas/50/2012 virus this year) and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus (Yamagata lineage).

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends immunization priority for persons at high risk of influenza-related complications, those capable of transmitting influenza to individuals at high risk of complications and those who provide essential community services. Those who provide care to children ≤ 59 months of age, whether in or out of the home, are also encouraged to receive the influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all Canadians aged six months or older who have no contraindications. This year's NACI recommendations include updated guidance for travellers, recommendations on vaccine administration to those with egg allergies, recommendations for the administration of live attenuated vaccine with other live parenteral or mucosal vaccines and updated recommendations for health care workers.

You can find out more about these changes in the NACI guidelines available at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni.

The following materials will help you educate patients, raise awareness and promote immunization in your pharmacy:

- A pocket guide on seasonal influenza vaccination
- A poster on seasonal influenza
- Two handouts, one on how to protect yourself from the flu, the other on what health professionals need to know about influenza

CPhA has updated our influenza immunization resources for pharmacists, according to the NACI recommendations, including our newly updated Influenza Immunization Guide for Pharmacists available on the CPhA website at www.pharmacists.ca/flu. As well, you can find the document, Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals, on the Public Health Agency of Canada website. Additional posters and other influenza vaccination promotional materials are also available from CCIAP at www.immunize.ca.

For more information or to provide feedback or suggestions, please contact Phil Emberley at (613)523-7877 ext. 220 or 1-800-917-9489 ext. 220.

Sincerely,

Sherry Peister, President
Canadian Pharmacists Association

MAKE A HEALTHY CHOICE . . .
Protect yourself and those around you.

GET THE FLU SHOT!

