

Furmek, Maria A HLTH:EX

From: Trotter, Wendy HLTH:EX
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 8:59 AM
To: Herman, Matt HLTH:EX
Cc: Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX; Baade, Leah HLTH:EX; Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX; Thompson, Craig HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Immunization Committee
Attachments: 1122236 – MLA Req - Fluzone High Dose.docx
Importance: High

Craig Thompson is our member of the Immunization Committee. s.13
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I have attached the info bullets done for the Minister in October on Fluzone/Fluad.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Wendy

Wendy Trotter BN, JD (LLB), MPA
Executive Director, Public Health Services
Population and Public Health, BC Ministry of Health
Office phone: 250-952-2378; Email: wendy.trotter@gov.bc.ca

From: Herman, Matt HLTH:EX
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 8:29 AM
To: Trotter, Wendy HLTH:EX; Sagar, Brian HLTH:EX
Subject: FW: Immunization Committee

Do you mind providing something asap please?

Matt Herman | Executive Lead | Population & Public Health Division | Ministry of Health | Phone: (250) 952-1731 | Cell: (250) 217-4439 | Matt.Herman@gov.bc.ca

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From: Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX
Sent: December 3, 2018 8:26 AM
To: Herman, Matt HLTH:EX
Subject: Immunization Committee

Good morning Matt,

If you are a member of the Immunization Committee do you have any information on its recommendations around 'Fluzone'?

Thanks

Holly Moulton
Director of Operations
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health
Tel: 250 952 2162

MO INFORMATION BULLETS

Cliff# 1122236 – Ronna Rae Leonard, MLA, Courtenay-Comox re: Fluzone High Dose

REQUEST

- MLA Leonard's office had a constituent wondering whether the Province of British Columbia has any plans to provide coverage for Fluzone High Dose to seniors over 65 and if not, whether this is something that could be considered.

BACKGROUND

- As with other provinces and territories in Canada, when a new or improved vaccine is approved for use, BC considers it for inclusion in the publicly-funded schedule.
- In BC, the Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee, led by the Provincial Health Officer, makes recommendations to government for implementation of new or expanded immunization programs. Recommendations are informed by a number of factors drawn from an analytical framework for immunization programs in Canada (the Erickson De Wals framework), including:
 - Vaccine safety/efficacy: does the vaccine allow for safe and effective immunization?
 - Burden of illness: does BC-specific disease epidemiology justify a vaccine program?
 - Cost-effectiveness: what is the proposed program's cost-effectiveness profile and how does it compare to other health care interventions?
 - Feasibility of delivery: is implementation feasible given existing resources?
 - Public acceptability: is there a high level of demand or acceptance for the vaccine?
- The Ministry of Health will also evaluate individual and independent recommendations, and will use the same listed factors to inform its final recommendations, in the context of other health system demand and priority.

FINDINGS:

- Fluzone High Dose (a high dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine) is approved for use in Canada (2016) for adults 65 years of age and older, but is not currently offered in BC through its publicly funded program.
- Manufacturers of high dose influenza vaccines have marketed these to seniors with claims of superior efficacy over other flu vaccines on the market.
- These vaccines were not recommended for inclusion in the publicly funded program in BC for 2018/19, because their incremental costs are disproportionate to the incremental benefit they provide, based on the evidence available to date.
- Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) does not recommend preferential use of this vaccine over the other influenza vaccines available for use in this age group.
- NACI recommends seniors receive an inactivated influenza vaccine.

- For the 2018/19, Influenza season, BC will be offer three vaccines for adults:
 - 1) Fluviral MDV;
 - 2) Influvac; and
 - 3) Fluzone MDV.
- The vaccine offered will be determined by an eligibility assessment by an authorized health provider and/or vaccine availability.
- Vaccines are reviewed annually by the Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee; while high-dose influenza vaccines are not presently publicly funded, this policy could change in the future.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

- BC will not be publicly funding an influenza high dose vaccine (FLUAD or Fluzone High Dose) for the 2018/19, season.
- Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) does not recommend preferential use of this vaccine over the other influenza vaccines available for use in this age group.
- NACI recommends seniors receive an inactivated influenza vaccine.
- Those individuals wishing to receive influenza high-dose vaccine may purchase the vaccine privately through their physician or authorised pharmacist.
- While currently, influenza high dose vaccines are not publicly funded in BC, the Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee reviews BC's immunization schedule annually and so at some future date the vaccine maybe included into BC's immunization schedule.

Program area: Immunization, Public Health Services, Population and Public Health Division
Date: October 29, 2018