Pharmacy Information
Bulletin No. 984
September 24, 2025

Influenza and COVID-19 Immunization Programs 2026-2027 Frequently Asked Questions

New for 2026-2027– online Vaccine Transfer Form

- Prior to transfer of COVID-19 vaccine to another pharmacy, the sending pharmacy must complete and submit the community pharmacy online Vaccine Transfer Form (https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/COVIDImmunizationProgram) prior to physically transferring any vaccine. **Faxes will not be accepted.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What are the dates for the Ministry of Health 2026-2027 Provincial Fall Immunization Program?**
   - The Ministry's 2026-2027 Fall Immunization Program is scheduled to officially begin on October 13, 2026, and end on March 31, 2027.
   - As part of the soft start to the programs and pending no shipping delays, authorized immunizers are permitted to begin administration of publicly funded vaccines on October 5, 2026.
   - Children under the age of nine receiving their first influenza immunization may receive their second dose no later than April 30, 2027.
   - The COVID-19 spring immunization campaign will run from April 1 to June 11, 2027, for individuals recommended to receive one additional COVID-19 vaccine dose.

2. **Where can I find information on billing and vaccine products for this season?**
   - Information regarding influenza and COVID-19 vaccine products and ordering information has been communicated in Drug Plan Extended Bulletin *#983 – Publicly Funded Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution.*
   - Billing information and procedures can be found in Table 1 and Appendix I of both the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch Influenza Immunization Policy (IIP) and the *COVID-19 Immunization Policy* (CIP) which will be posted on the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary website (https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram).

3. **Where can I find additional information, including vaccine eligibility, for the respiratory illness season?**
   - For more information, including access to the recorded webinar, visit the medSask Respiratory Virus Season Webpage (https://medsask.usask.ca/respiratory-illness-season).
   - Additional public health information can be found on the Government of Saskatchewan webpage (https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/resources-for-health-care-providers/public-health-manuals-policies/provincial-fall-immunization-program-manual).

4. **Do pharmacists need to obtain consent from individuals to administer an influenza or COVID-19 vaccine?**
   - Yes, as all immunizations in the Province of Saskatchewan are voluntary, pharmacists are required to obtain informed written or verbal consent before immunization with a publicly funded or privately purchased vaccine.
   - Pharmacists must follow the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) requirements for obtaining and documenting consent according to the *Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Pharmacists in the Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes,* April 2026 at https://saskpharm.ca/site/profprac/adminofdrugs?nav=sidebar.

- All documentation for verbal consent **MUST** clearly indicate that the consent was obtained verbally. The Ministry strongly recommends using the medSask *Vaccine Screening and Consent Form* (https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2023-02/vaccine-screening-form.pdf) to reduce errors (e.g., age verification and fridge expiry).

5. **Where can pharmacists get copies of the client-applicable Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheets?**
   - The Ministry of Health *Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Fact Sheet 2026-2027* and The Ministry of Health *COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet 2026-2027* should be made available to all individuals and can be accessed on the Government of Saskatchewan webpage at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/immunization-services/immunization-forms-and-fact-sheets.

6. **Where can patients access their immunization records or obtain proof of immunization?**
   - Patients should be directed to their MySaskHealthRecord for their immunization record and proof of immunization.
   - Patients without access to MSHR can contact their local public health office for further assistance. However, there may be an administration fee to provide the record.

7. **Can authorized immunizers administer the vaccine to the whole family, if a family has children younger than five years of age?**
   - The Provincial Fall Immunization Policy (PFIP) permits authorized pharmacy immunizers to administer the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine to residents of Saskatchewan who are **five years of age and older.**
   - A child younger than five years old must be referred to local Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) Public Health for administration of the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine.

8. **Can authorized immunizers administer the publicly funded influenza and COVID-19 vaccine in locations other than pharmacies?**
   - Authorized immunizers may administer publicly funded influenza and COVID-19 vaccine within the physical space of licensed pharmacy or outside of the pharmacy, as defined in *Appendix II: Definition of Alternate Location, Mass Immunization Clinic, Congregate Living Setting, Licensed Personal Care Home (PCH) and Home Visit for Publicly Funded Vaccine* in the IIP and CIP policy documents.
   - Note: Pharmacies are not authorized to administer publicly funded vaccine at businesses and other non-public access locations.
   - Pharmacies are reminded that all off-site delivery of influenza and COVID-19 vaccine should be communicated to and coordinated with local public health offices to prevent possible duplication of services. Pharmacies must notify your local public health office of any vaccinations to residents living in a licensed PCH not previously disclosed in the 2026-27 Influenza and COVID-19 Immunizations in Personal Care Homes survey.

9. **Do I need to register an "Alternate Location" with the DPEBB for individuals to receive publicly funded Influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccine?**
   - Although pharmacies aren't required to register alternate location clinics with the DPEBB, they should make every effort to ensure a clinic date has not already been established by public health to avoid duplication of services. It is recommended to review the online active public health clinics to help identify these services (https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/your-health/conditions-illnesses-services-wellness/respiratory-illness-season).

10. **What are the reporting requirements if an individual experiences an adverse event following immunization (AEFI)?**
    - All AEFIs must be reported immediately using the form on the Health Canada website (https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/reporting-adverse-events-following-immunization/aefi_form.pdf). Submit the *PHAC Reporting Form for Adverse Events Following Immunization* to:
        - Publicly Funded Vaccine: To your local SHA Public Health as outline in the PFIP.
        - Privately Purchased Vaccine: Send directly to Health Canada.
    - medSask created a supportive document to assist pharmacists filling out an AEFI, which can be found at https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2023-02/aefi-quick-sheet.pdf.

11. **What are the reporting requirements if there is a cold chain break?**
    - Report and manage all cold chain break (CCB) incidents for publicly funded vaccine **immediately** upon discovery to the Ministry of Health as per requirements set out in the annual Provincial Fall Immunization Policy (PFIP) using the Cold Chain Break Report Form (https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/129355/formats/155800/download).
    - How to Complete the Cold Chain Break Report Form, 5.2A (https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/129354/formats/155761/download) for instructions on completing and submitting a cold chain break report.
    - Pharmacies should not assume product involved in a cold chain break is unusable. Product involved in a cold chain break must be returned to proper storage requirements, labelled and quarantined from other stock until direction is given by Population Health Branch. Do not use any product involved in a cold chain break until advised by Population Health Branch.
    - If the Ministry deems the product not viable (designated for disposal), only then must the pharmacy complete the online Vaccine Wastage Form (https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/COVIDImmunizationProgram).

12. **What are the reporting requirements for publicly funded vaccine wastage? (NEW for 2026-2027)**
    - Report not administered, damaged, defective, expired, or otherwise wasted publicly funded vaccine through the community pharmacy online Vaccine Wastage Form (https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/COVIDImmunizationProgram). Reports must be submitted as soon as possible after the wastage occurs, and no later than one week after the date the vaccine became unusable or was designated for disposal.

13. **What should be done if there is a problem with a vaccine vial or pre-filled syringe?**
    - Problems with vaccine vials or pre-filled syringes must be reported to the Ministry of Health immediately using the *Publicly Funded Vaccine Problem Report* (https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/129355/formats/155804/download).

14. **Can a pharmacy privately purchase Influenza or COVID-19 vaccine and charge the individual if they are from out-of-province?**
    - A pharmacy is not permitted to use publicly funded influenza or COVID-19 vaccine to immunize out-of-province individuals (exception: residents of Lloydminster and surrounding area). Pharmacists **must** refer out-of-province individuals requesting influenza or COVID-19 immunization to their local SHA Public Health Office.
    - A pharmacy may purchase and charge an out-of-province individual for a non-publicly funded influenza vaccine if the individual chooses. The patient must be informed of any SHA public health no-charge options prior to offering non-publicly funded vaccine.
    - Contact your wholesaler directly to determine availability of privately purchased COVID-19 or Influenza vaccine.
    - Pharmacies cannot submit a claim for an IIF or CIF to the DPEBB for non-publicly funded influenza vaccine.

15. **What do I do if I receive an error or warning code from the drug plan when billing a publicly funded COVID-19 or Influenza vaccine?**
    - Pharmacists should verify the correct DIN and HSN was submitted and view the vaccine record history to determine whether this is a billing versus administration error.
    - Administration errors must be reported to dpebimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca, the patient/caregiver, and COMPASS(CPhIR).
    - Error Code "AA - HSN not on file" - Pharmacist will then need to complete and submit the *Influenza Vaccine Administration Form – single patient* or *COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Form – single patient* within one business day. The forms can be found on the fall immunization resource page (https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/resources-for-health-care-providers/public-health-manuals-policies/provincial-fall-immunization-program-manual).
    - Warning Code "AR- HSN does not have current valid coverage" – The patient needs to contact eHealth to renew HSN coverage.
    - Warning Code "YL – Authorized quantity limit exceeded " – Pharmacist should review PIP/eHR Viewer and local profiles to look for duplicate vaccine administration.
    - Warning Code "GR- Age inconsistent with drug" – Pharmacist should review the patient's age and DIN submitted to determine vaccine eligibility.
    - Warning Code "HA – Non-benefit DIN" – Patient has been deemed to be a resident of Special-care Home and is ineligible for pharmacy administration.

16. **Can pharmacies provide incentives or rewards under customer loyalty programs when providing publicly funded influenza or COVID-19 vaccine?**
    - **No incentives shall be provided** by the Proprietor, or an agent on behalf of the Proprietor, to any other person in relation to the provision of publicly funded influenza immunization. ***"Incentives"*** *means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods, dividends and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.*

17. **Can our pharmacy advertise the "soft start" of the Influenza Immunization Program and/or COVID-19 Immunization Program to patrons?**
    - It is **not permitted** to publicize the soft start.
    - Any advertising after the SHA media announcement (October 6, 2026), must include the official start date.

18. **When can we open our patient booking system either in person, over the phone, or online for immunization appointments?**
    - Pharmacies may begin accepting appointments into their patient booking systems after the SHA media announcement on October 6, 2026, provided that they **do not** offer booked appointments for immunization prior to October 13, 2026.

19. **Children between the ages of five and eight years require a second dose of influenza vaccine (minimum of four weeks [28 days] after their first dose) if they have not received the influenza vaccine before. Is the child eligible for a second vaccine dose if the child turns nine years old before they receive the second dose?**
    - Vaccine is available until April 30, 2027, for children immunized for the first time and who received their first dose by March 31, 2027, to get their second, including children turning nine years old before their second dose.

20. **Can I co-administer influenza vaccine with COVID-19 vaccine?**
    - Influenza vaccine may be administered during the same appointment as other vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine.
    - Influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine must be administered in separate syringes and different administration sites.

21. I am having a clinic and need more than the maximum daily/weekly allocation. How can I get more vaccine?

- You may order the maximum allocations every day/week in advance to reach your expected demand for a clinic.
- If you require more than the maximum allocations on short notice, please email dpebimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca for support.

22. A patient of ours who is age 65, does NOT want FLUAD Enhanced-Dose®. Is it okay to administer FLUVIRAL®?

- Yes, FLUVIRAL® is indicated for individuals 6 months of age and older.

Who To Contact

REGISTRATION OF A PHARMACY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM;
INFLUENZA and COVID-19 VACCINE SUPPLY; and
DAILY/WEEKLY ORDER LIMITS (and requests exceeding daily or weekly limits for an immunization clinic):

- Contact the DPEBB at dpebimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca.

BILLING QUESTIONS OR ISSUES:

- Contact the DPEBB at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581.

ORDERING AND SHIPPING OF PUBLICLY FUNDED INFLUENZA and COVID-19 VACCINE:

Contact the appropriate wholesaler order desk:

- McKesson Canada Order Desk: 1-800-667-9299.
- Shoppers Drug Mart/Loblaw Pharmacies (Matrix) should order publicly funded influenza and COVID-19 vaccine through the usual processes using their pharmacy order management system.