

Health

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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October 4, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Re: Changes to the 2011-2012 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program

- **Children 6 to 35 months of age should be given a full dose (0.5 mL) of Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV) intramuscularly instead of the previously recommended half dose (0.25 mL).** Current evidence from the 2011/2012 NACI statement on seasonal influenza suggests moderate improvement in antibody response without increase in reactogenicity or adverse effects with use of full doses. This recommendation applies whether the child is being given one dose of TIV or a two-dose series.
- **Egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using TIV, without a prior influenza vaccine skin test, based on an assessment of risk for a severe allergic reaction to guide the method of vaccination.** Please refer to the NACI statement for guidelines on assessing egg allergic individuals at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/11vol37/acs-dcc-5/index-eng.php>.

- Adverse events following immunization (AEFI) should be reported to Manitoba Health, Public Health Surveillance. Forms are available at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/info.html>.
- The updated Influenza Protocol to guide management of Influenza cases will soon be available on the website at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html>.

Please share this communication with all colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

“Original signed by”

Dr Bunmi Fatoye, MD, FRCPC
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control