

**TO:** Board of Health  
**MEETING DATE:** April 4, 2018  
**REPORT NO.:** **BH.01.APR0418.C08**  
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## Key Points

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- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) administered close to 5000 doses of influenza vaccine from October 2017 – February 28, 2018.
- Distribution of influenza vaccine doses to local health care providers has remained consistent with last year's volume.
- Administration of the influenza vaccine by pharmacies continues to grow each year.
- Local Long-Term Care Facilities and Hospitals have increased influenza immunization rates this year for their health care workers and Retirement Homes have maintained the same rate as the 2016-2017 season.

## Strategic Directions & Goals

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Building Healthy Communities - We will work with communities to support the health and well-being of everyone.

- We will promote healthy environments that support physical and mental health and well-being.

## Operational Plan Objectives

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To facilitate the distribution and administration of the influenza vaccine for the 2017-2018 year.

## Summary of OPHS Program Requirements

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### OPHS Program: Choose One

#### Goals:

- To reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

## Strategy:

- Disease Prevention/Health Protection

## Requirements:

- Distribute influenza vaccine to physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, long-term care facilities;
- Provide the public access to the influenza vaccine at local public health facilities; and
- Monitor healthcare worker immunization rates

## Accountability Indicators:

- N/A

## Performance variance or discrepancy identified:

- N/A

## Highlights

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Under the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP), WDGPH promotes influenza immunization by offering local clinics and distributing influenza vaccine to local health care providers.

Each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a combination of the influenza vaccine based on circulating strains from the previous year. For the 2017-2018 influenza season, WHO recommended trivalent vaccines for use in the northern hemisphere that contained the following<sup>1</sup>:

- A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

And that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three (3) viruses and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

Every year, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) advises the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with recommendations for annual influenza immunizations. For the 2017/2018 influenza season, NACI recommended the following changes<sup>2</sup>:

- Egg allergic individuals without other contradictions to the vaccine may be vaccinated against influenza using the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV). The full dose of LAIV may be used without prior vaccine skin test in any settings where vaccines are routinely administered.
- Children without contraindications to vaccine can receive quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIV), or trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV).
- Current evidence does not support a recommendation of the preferential use of LAIV in children and adolescents 2-17 years of age.

## Influenza Vaccine Distribution in WDG

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has distributed the following influenza vaccines this year:

Product	Vaccine Formulation	Eligibility
Influvac®	TIV	>18 years
Fluviral®	TIV	>18 years
Fluviral Tetra®	QIV	>6 months – 17 years
Fluzone Quadrivalent®	QIV	>6 months – 17 years
FluMist	LAIV	2-17 years

As of February 28, 2018, WDGPH administered close to 5000 doses of influenza vaccine. Community drop-in clinics were held in October at the WDGPH offices located in Orangeville, Fergus and Guelph (Chancellor's Way). Starting in November, booked appointments were offered in all offices. Over seventy percent (70%) of the total number of doses provided occurred in February in response to the death of two (2) children in the community. These doses were provided during drop-in clinics and scheduled appointments set up under the IMS structure. A separate Board of Health Report will be submitted outlining this response.

As of February 28, 2018, WDGPH had distributed 51,356 doses of influenza vaccine to healthcare providers. This is approximately the same volume as distributed to this group as last year. Since 2012, pharmacies have been able to qualify to administer influenza vaccine to people five (5) years of age or older. The number of influenza vaccine doses provided by pharmacies has increased every year. This year, qualifying pharmacies administered 29,983 doses of influenza vaccine by February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is an increase of almost 4000 doses from the previous year.

### Healthcare Worker Immunization Rates

NACI considered influenza immunization of healthcare workers to be an essential standard of care. Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities are required to report healthcare workers immunization rates to WDGPH by December 15<sup>th</sup>, every year.

Reported influenza immunization rates for health care workers for WDG in 2017-2018 were as follows:

Long-term care facilities – 92.2% (up from 84.1% in 2016/17).

Hospitals – 51.6% (up from 46.1% in 2016/17).

Retirement Homes – 62.5% (down slightly from 63.1% in 2016/17).

## Related Reports

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- **Media Release: Flu-related deaths in the area (Feb 2018):**  
<https://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/media-release-flu-related-deaths-area>
- **Influenza Coverage in WDG (2016-2017 Season):** [Clinical Services – Influenza Coverage in WDG \(2016-2017 Season\) – Program/Service Information Report.](#)

## References

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1. World Health Organization. Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017-2018 northern hemisphere influenza season. March 2017. Available from: [http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2017\\_18\\_north/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2017_18_north/en/)
2. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Canadian immunization guide chapter on the influenza and statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2017-2018. 2017 May. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2017-2018.html>.