

September 6, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: 2024-2025 Respiratory Season Vaccination Plan

Please consult the New Brunswick Respiratory Season Vaccine Guide (link below) for all the details of our respiratory season vaccines.

The respiratory season poses significant health risks, especially to vulnerable populations such as the elderly and individuals with weakened immune systems or chronic health conditions. In an ongoing effort to prevent and control these illnesses, the Department of Health will continue to offer influenza, COVID and pneumococcal vaccines this fall. While COVID-19 and influenza vaccines can be offered to everyone, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) strongly recommends these vaccines for those groups at high risk of severe infections due to waning immunity and changes in circulating strains.

New this year is the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for individuals aged 60 and over who are either living in a long-term care sector or are hospitalized and awaiting placement in such facilities. In addition, a new trivalent influenza vaccine is available for seniors living in the community. However, the high-dose influenza vaccine will continue to be provided to individuals in long-term care sectors and hospitalized patients awaiting placement.

Co-administration of vaccines

Influenza, pneumococcal, RSV and COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered (given at the same time) or at any time regardless of when each vaccine has been received. We encourage health care professionals to provide co-administration to our population when possible.

Vaccine Orders

The launch date for the 2024-2025 Respiratory Season Program will be announced once vaccine delivery to the province is confirmed. The ordering process is outlined in the "New Brunswick Respiratory Season Vaccine Guide".

All influenza vaccine orders should be placed by September 16, 2024. Pneumococcal vaccines are currently available and ordering dates for RSV and COVID-19 vaccines will be confirmed via Vaccine News email after product arrival.

Please plan your clinics accordingly. To allow sufficient time to deliver these vaccines to your facility/clinic, we encourage that you do not schedule your immunization clinics before you have received your vaccines.

Note: Specifically for the influenza vaccine, New Brunswick receives a percentage of the overall influenza vaccine order for the season in four or more shipments over several weeks, so you will not receive 100% of your vaccine order in the first shipment in October.

Vaccine records

In order to meet [Public Health Act](#) regulations, all professionals administering publicly funded vaccines must document these immunizations **within one week of administration** and provide one copy of the immunization records to the patient and one to the Minister, which is achieved when this data is entered

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into the Public Health Information Solution (PHIS). Please refer to the “[New Brunswick Respiratory Season Vaccine Guide](#)” for the process on how to submit your forms.

Vaccine Storage and Handling

It is critical that vaccine potency is protected by always maintaining cold chain. Health care practitioners who are receiving vaccines must have proper vaccine storage equipment in place, i.e., a temperature-monitored purpose-built vaccine refrigerator.

Refer to [New Brunswick Immunization Program Guide](#) for policies : [Storage and Handling](#) and [Management of Storage Excursions](#) for additional information. Refer to the vaccine product monographs for specific requirements on vaccine storage, temperature monitoring and transportation requirements.

Resources

- [New Brunswick Respiratory Season Vaccine Guide](#)
- [Vaccines and immunization \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [New Brunswick's Immunization Program Guide](#)
- [Influenza vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](#)
- [Pneumococcal vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](#)
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\): Canadian Immunization Guide - Canada.ca](#)

Health care providers such as yourself play a key role in the success of the province's immunization campaign, either through the administration of vaccines, verifying patient's immunization records and eligibility, and encouraging vaccine uptake. Healthcare providers are some of the most trusted and influential sources of immunization advice, so don't discount the impact you can have in encouraging vaccine uptake with your patients.

Thank you for your assistance with the 2024-2025 Respiratory Season Vaccination Campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Landsburg'.

Shelley Landsburg, BNRN MPH

Director
Disease Prevention and Control