

Influenza immunization 2022 to 2023—pharmacy end of season

Thank you to all pharmacists who participated in the Alberta 2022/23 Influenza Immunization Program.

2022 to 2023 influenza season highlights:

- More than 1.26 million Albertans were immunized.
- Pharmacists immunized approximately 969,915 Albertans.
- The Alberta influenza immunization rate is currently 28 per cent, which is a one per cent increase over the 2021 to 2022 season.
- 64 per cent of Albertans 65 years of age and older have received influenza vaccines.

End date for the 2022 to 2023 influenza season

The influenza immunization program ends on March 31, 2023.

Children five to nine years of age eligible for a second dose of influenza vaccine can receive it until April 30, 2023. Pharmacy wholesale distributors will NOT distribute influenza vaccine after March 31, 2023. Pharmacists can complete the second dose until April 30, as influenza vaccine is available. If vaccine is not available at your pharmacy, refer clients to another health care practitioner. Alberta Blue Cross will accept claims until April 30 for this age group.

Unused and expired provincially funded influenza vaccine

All provincially funded influenza vaccine must be removed from cold chain storage for appropriate destruction in accordance with the Standards for the Operation of Licensed Pharmacies (Standard 5.16) on May 1, 2023.

All influenza vaccine leftover at the end of the season must be accounted for and reconciled on Alberta's Vaccine Inventory (AVI) management system using:

- Category code "Wasted"
- Reason code "Waste/Influenza Season End"

Pharmacy wholesalers cannot accept provincially funded influenza vaccine returns. You are responsible for the proper destruction of unused and expired vaccine. The cost of destruction will not be reimbursed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact health.imm@gov.ab.ca.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

