

Influenza immunization 2023 to 2024—pharmacy end of season

Thank you to all pharmacists who participated in the 2023 to 2024 Alberta Influenza Immunization Program.

2023 to 2024 influenza season highlights

- Over 1.13 million Albertans were immunized.
- The Alberta influenza immunization rate is 25 per cent.
- 59 per cent of Albertans 65 years of age and older have received their influenza vaccines.
- Pharmacists immunized approximately 878,695 Albertans (78 per cent).

End date for the 2023 to 2024 influenza season

- The Influenza Immunization Program ends on **March 31, 2024**.
- Children 5 to 9 years of age eligible for a second dose of influenza vaccine can receive it until **April 30, 2024**. Pharmacy wholesale distributors will not be distributing influenza vaccine after **March 31, 2024**. 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, 2024** 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 by Alberta College of Pharmacy's Standard of Practice (Standard 5.13) on **May 1, 2024**.
- All influenza vaccine left over on **May 1** is considered withdrawn and inventory remaining in Alberta's Vaccine Inventory System (AVI) should be reconciled on AVI using
 - category: Wasted, and
 - reason: Wasted/Influenza Season End.
- Pharmacy wholesalers cannot accept provincially funded influenza vaccine returns. You are responsible for the proper destruction of unused/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

