

# Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 850 • March 2020

## Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP) Influenza Immunization end of 2019/2020 season

Please be advised that the end date for the 2019-2020 Influenza Season is March 31, 2020.

### 2019-2020 Influenza Season highlights:

- Over 1.38 million Albertans have been immunized so far.
- Pharmacists immunized over 860,000 Albertans (~ 60% of the total doses).
- The Alberta influenza immunization rate is currently 32%, a 2% increase over the 2018-2019 season. Of note, the influenza immunization target for all Albertans is 35%.

### Second doses for children

Children 5 to 9 years of age eligible for a second dose of influenza vaccine can receive it until April 30, 2020. Pharmacy wholesale distributors will not be distributing influenza vaccine after March 31, 2020; however, pharmacists can complete the second dose until April 30 if they have influenza vaccine available. If vaccine is not available at your pharmacy, refer clients to another healthcare 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 by your pharmacy's standard of practice (Standard 5.13) on May 1.

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.

More information about the Immunization Regulation can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-immunization-policy.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact [health.imm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:health.imm@gov.ab.ca).

### When you have questions:

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](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)



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