



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

---

**October 22, 2010**

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: 2010-11 Seasonal Trivalent Influenza Vaccine**

Please note the following revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, **Section VII – Biological Products pages 32, 33, and 34:**

- “Severe oculo-respiratory syndrome (ORS) after a previous dose of influenza vaccine” is now listed as a precaution. A line for “PRECAUTIONS’ has been added on each page.
- The footnote for the precaution reads: “ORS consists of bilateral red eyes or facial swelling or respiratory symptoms such as cough, wheeze, sore throat, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, or sore throat beginning within 24 hours of vaccination. Most people who have had ORS after a previous dose of influenza vaccine do not experience it again. About 5 - 34% experience another episode but it is usually milder. If a client has received influenza vaccine without difficulty following an episode of severe ORS, they may be revaccinated with the vaccine prepared for this season. Severe symptoms of ORS include wheezing, chest tightness/discomfort, difficulty breathing or severe throat constriction/difficulty swallowing. When a client has had severe ORS following influenza vaccine and not received influenza vaccine since, this is considered to be a precaution to future receipt of influenza vaccine. Such individuals who wish to receive influenza vaccine should consult with their primary care physician and Medical Health Officer for an expert review to distinguish between severe ORS and any anaphylaxis risk. Consult the National Advisory Committee on Immunization Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the current season.

**Administrative Circular 2010:20**

---

**EPIDEMIOLOGY SERVICES**  
**BC CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL**  
655 WEST 12TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER BC V5Z 4R4  
PHONE: (604) 707-2517 | FAX: (604) 707-2516  
WWW.BCCDC.CA



**Page 33, “Influenza Vaccine (Inactivated Split Virion) (Thimerosal - reduced VAXIGRIP®):”**

- Footnote ❶ information is now included under “Special Considerations
- Footnotes renumbered accordingly.

**Page 34, “Influenza Vaccine (Inactivated Subunit) (Influvac™):”**

- Line for “ROUTE” removed, as route of administration is included under “DOSAGE”.

**Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

Pages 32, 33, and 34

Dated October 2010

**Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program, Section VII – Biological Products:**

Pages 32, 33, and 34

Dated October 22, 2010

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 707-2510, fax (604) 707-2516 or by email at [karen.pielak@bccdc.ca](mailto:karen.pielak@bccdc.ca) or [cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca](mailto:cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,



Dr. Monika Naus  
Medical Director, Immunization Program and  
Associate Medical Director, Epidemiology Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:

Dr. Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk  
Medical Consultant  
Non-Communicable Disease

Craig Thompson  
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

Warren O'Briain  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention