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## **MEMO**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023

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**To:** Health Care Providers

**From:** Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

**Re:** Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Opt-In: **RESPONSE REQUIRED;**  
Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccines

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### **Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Opt-In: RESPONSE REQUIRED**

Lambton Public Health receives a finite amount of influenza vaccine from the Ministry of Health to distribute to health care providers in the community.

To allocate the influenza vaccine appropriately, we are asking health care providers to **OPT-IN** to receive influenza vaccine.

**Please complete the attached form and submit by Friday, September 15th, 2023.**

You may email your response to [vaccineorders@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:vaccineorders@county-lambton.on.ca) or fax the completed form back to 519-383-7092.

As per Ministry of Health direction, all offices who opt-in will be allocated up to 50% of their total doses administered last year in their initial allocation. Further communication on re-orders and an updated order form will be sent out in October.

#### **When ordering, please consider the following:**

1. Pharmacies will also receive high-dose influenza vaccines this season.
2. Lambton Public Health's COVID-19 and influenza vaccination clinics will be held throughout Lambton County for high-risk individuals starting in October, and for the general public in early November.
3. If planning to offer larger clinics, please do not schedule these until November to ensure the vaccine is available.

For any questions, please contact Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331.

## Rabies Pre-Exposure Vaccines

Health care providers may vaccinate patients that request pre-exposure rabies vaccine by writing a prescription for the vaccine, and the patient will then have two options:

1. Pick it up at a pharmacy and take it back to have it administered, OR,
2. Have it administered at the pharmacy, if the service is offered there.

**There are two rabies vaccines approved for use in Canada.** Both vaccines are considered equally effective and are intended for both adults and children:

1. [IMOVAX Rabies](#) – contains an inactivated rabies virus, produced in human diploid cell culture (HDCV).
2. [RabAvert](#) – contains an inactivated rabies virus, produced in chick embryo cell culture (PCECV).

Rabies pre-exposure immunization administration:

- Three doses of Imovax Rabies or RabAvert are required and should be given on days 0, 7, and any time between days 21 to 28.
- Rabies vaccine should never be administered in the gluteal muscle due to variable immune response.
- Full details are found in the [Rabies vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide](#).