



# Transforming Influenza Immunization in B.C.

Getting immunized against influenza every year is one of the best ways to protect yourself, your family and friends from getting sick. It also reduces the burden on health-care providers, clinics and hospitals.

To encourage more people in B.C. to get immunized, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control, health authorities and other partners have been working with health-care providers to expand the provincial vaccination program. Last fall, the Province launched the largest influenza campaign in provincial history – including expanded coverage and improvements to how vaccines were delivered to pharmacies throughout the province, to better support British Columbians.

## Here's a snapshot of this milestone season:



B.C. ordered more than two million doses of influenza vaccines from the federal government – an increase of 10% from 2020-21 and 50% more than the doses ordered in 2019-20.



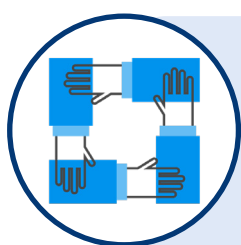
The vaccines were distributed to hundreds of pharmacies, doctors' and nurse practitioners' offices, public health units and walk-in clinics throughout the province.



For the 2021-22 influenza season, influenza vaccination was free-of-charge to everyone in B.C. six months of age or older.



FLUZONE High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine was available at no cost to long-term care and seniors' assisted living residents, as well as seniors in Indigenous communities.



The Province implemented a new distribution model so pharmacists can receive influenza vaccines directly from suppliers, which is faster and more efficient for pharmacists and regional health authorities, who previously coordinated distribution to community pharmacies.



The ministry and partners are also consulting with family physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners about how they can further support influenza vaccination in primary care. More than 180 providers from different health regions have shared their ideas through eight engagement sessions since fall 2021.

## Learn more about influenza and immunization

Visit [HealthLinkBC's](#) and [ImmunizeBC's](#) websites for frequently asked questions about influenza, the vaccines available, as well as an online flu clinic locator you can use to find a vaccination location nearest you.

We welcome your input and feedback. Contact us at: [MOHNewsletter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MOHNewsletter@gov.bc.ca)

