



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

September 22, 2020

## Update on Flu Shots

The Department of Health and Community Services and the regional health authorities are working to launch the provincial flu vaccine program by October 21, 2020.

The Department has advised that it will temporarily reinstate the fee-for-service fee code for Influenza Immunization this flu season. The fee code will be established at the preexisting rate of \$17.06.

Public Health is getting ready for a major rollout of the flu vaccine this fall to help alleviate the burden of influenza on the health care system during the pandemic. Their goal is 80% vaccination coverage. To achieve this target, the provincial government is mobilizing pharmacies and reintroducing the flu shot fee code for doctors. Salaried physicians will also be asked to provide the influenza vaccine.

The Department advised it will provide NLMA with more details in the coming weeks about such issues as the ordering process, health and safety protocols, logistics, distribution and storage of the vaccine, etc. The Department is also working with NLCHI regarding the details of vaccine documentation and tracking using the provincial EMR as the preferred method. An alternate method will be available for providers who do not use EMR. NLMA will share the details of the province's operational plan with members as it becomes available.

In the meantime, the NLMA has learned that PPE will be provided as per public health guidelines. The vaccine will be provided in existing form - they will not be prefilled. The small quantity of prefilled syringes ordered are intended to be administered by health care workers to health care workers within the RHAs.

Tomorrow, the NLMA will issue a news release to advise the public that flu shots will once again be covered under MCP by participating family physicians this fall.

Even though this is a temporary fee code reinstatement, we encourage physicians to participate in the vaccination program to ensure maximum protection for patients given the magnitude of health issues during pandemic.

The NLMA also remains committed to advocating for the permanent reinstatement of the influenza vaccination fee code. We need to permanently increase the province's low influenza vaccination rate, not just during COVID-19.

---

***Representing and supporting a united medical profession and providing leadership  
in the provision of excellent health care in Newfoundland and Labrador***

164 MacDonald Dr., St. John's, NL, Canada, A1A 4B3  
**Telephone** (709) 726-7424 | **Toll Free** (800) 563-2003 | **Fax** (709) 726-7525  
**E-mail** [nlma@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:nlma@nlma.nl.ca) | **Web** [www.nlma.nl.ca](http://www.nlma.nl.ca)