



Date: October 19, 2020
To: Mayors and Reeves, Central Zone
From: Dr. Ifeoma Achebe, Lead Medical Officer of Health, Central Zone
RE: Influenza Immunization in your Community

Alberta's influenza immunization program begins today, October 19. As we continue to work together on Alberta's response to COVID-19, immunization is more important than ever, both to protect ourselves and our loved ones, and also to reduce the burden of additional illness in our communities.

As you may already be hearing, this year's immunization options have changed.

All Albertans, six months of age and older, are still eligible to be immunized, free of charge; however, this year, Alberta Health Services (AHS) is working with pharmacists and physicians to offer immunization to different age groups and demographics.

The easiest way for most Albertans to get immunized is to call a local pharmacy or doctor's office.

AHS clinics are offering influenza immunization to those under five years of age and their immediate families or household members, only. Appointments are required for AHS clinics, and can easily be booked online at www.ahs.ca/influenza, or by calling 811.

Individuals who do not have a provincial health care number, or who live in a community where there are no other immunizing health care providers aside from AHS, can call 811 to book an immunization through AHS.

No community will be without the protection of influenza immunization. We are here to support you, your friends, family, colleagues and neighbors in getting immunized.

Masking and physical distancing practices continue to be in place at all immunization locations. We also remind anyone experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 to please isolate at home and visit ahs.ca/covid to complete the AHS online self-assessment and book a test for COVID-19. We remind all Albertans: please don't attend an immunization appointment if you are feeling unwell.

Thank you for your support in sharing this information, and championing influenza immunization this season. Should you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our Central Zone Director of Communications, Heather Kipling (heather.kipling@ahs.ca), will be more than happy to assist.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ifeoma Achebe".

Dr. Ifeoma Achebe
Lead Medical Officer of Health
Alberta Health Services, Central Zone
