

MEMO

To: Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, Community Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Re: Update on Current COVID-19 Vaccination Program
Date: **August 27, 2024**

The Department of Health and Community Services continues to collaborate with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and other jurisdictions on appropriate vaccination programs for protection against COVID-19. In May 2024, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provided updated guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccine commencing in the Fall of 2024 and is recommending COVID-19 vaccine formulated with the latest circulating strain.

To prepare for the upcoming 2024-25 respiratory season and aligning with NACI recommendations of providing vaccine formulated with latest circulating strains, PHAC is advising nationally that all COVID-19 vaccine currently in circulation will need to be discarded. Effective **August 31, 2024**, all COVID-19 vaccine currently stocked within the province will need to be appropriately disposed of, regardless of its expiry date.

Public health programs should appropriately document disposal within the SEINET platform. For COVID-19 vaccine that has not expired, "*end of season influenza vaccine harvest*" should be selected. Expired COVID-19 vaccine should be documented in SEINET by selecting the most appropriate option for expired vaccine. Pharmacists and community health care providers should appropriately dispose of COVID-19 vaccine onsite.

The Department of Health and Community will be receiving an updated formulation of COVID-19 vaccine during the Fall of 2024. Information on the vaccine, including 2024-25 vaccine recommendations and information on how to order vaccine will be available in late September, 2024.