

Media Release
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Pharmacists Support Rollout of Saskatchewan Flu Shot Campaign

Pharmacists in Saskatchewan are pleased to be key members in the rollout of the province's 2021- 2022 Flu Shot campaign.

"This is such an important campaign for Saskatchewan residents, in terms of keeping people healthy, safe and at home, rather than in our hospitals. Pharmacists across the province join other members of Saskatchewan's health care team in urging Saskatchewan residents to get the flu shot," Myla Bulych, Director of Professional Affairs, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan.

As widely available members of Saskatchewan's health care team, pharmacists are not only able to administer the flu shot to Saskatchewan residents, they are also able to provide a range of health care services to patients while awaiting their vaccination.

"Pharmacists play a critical role in the health care team. They are able to prescribe for a range of ailments including: skin infections, bladder infections, headaches, hemorrhoids and birth control, among many others. They can assess your medications, provide counselling for chronic disease management such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, smoking cessation and addictions management. They also can administer a range of vaccinations including those for travel, shingles, pneumonia and others," said Bulych.

During the pandemic, pharmacists were approved to administer COVID vaccinations and booster shots broadening the access to these vaccines across the province.

"One of the benefits of getting the flu shot in a pharmacy is that pharmacists are also able to administer COVID vaccines to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated patients who are interested in getting both their COVID vaccination and their flu shot, in one visit," said Bulych.

In 2020 pharmacists administered 233,641 flu shots, or approximately 70% of all doses administered to residents in the province. In 2021 approximately 380 pharmacies in 90 communities across Saskatchewan are offering to administer flu shots to residents aged five and older.

"We're really proud of our ability to ensure Saskatchewan residents can access the flu shot nearly whenever or wherever they need it. Many of our pharmacies are open long hours, and on weekends, reducing accessibility challenges for residents across the province. Our pharmacy members work hard to enable access for all. We urge all Saskatchewan residents to make the choice to stay healthy, by visiting their local pharmacy and accessing the shot," she said.

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