



To: Nova Scotia Health Leadership
From: Jill Smith, Provincial Director Occupational Health, Safety & Wellness, People Services & Craig Thiel, Manager Occupational Health, Safety & Wellness
Date: October 4, 2024
Subject: Recruitment of Departmental Flu Champions, Annual Flu Campaign 2024

Nova Scotia Health ***Occupational Health Safety & Wellness Influenza Immunization Campaign*** for 2024 will begin mid-end October and with ongoing COVID activity and an increase in health care utilization, reducing the burden of influenza is of utmost importance.

It is of great importance for staff to be immunized and there is a greater need to ensure the implementation of a Flu Champion(s) who can immunize their colleagues in suitable work areas. Occupational Health Safety & Wellness is requesting leaders to identify individuals within their unit/work area to become a Flu Champion. Flu Champions can increase staff vaccine rates, decrease staff absenteeism, and increase patient safety without pulling staff away from their units to attend flu immunization clinics. This will also assist in keeping the numbers of people gathered for flu clinics at a minimum.

To become a Flu Champion, you must:

- 1) Be a regulated healthcare provider as per the [Care Directive](#) such as RN, LPN, Pharmacist or Registered Pharmacy Technician.
- 2) Complete the required self-directed learning on the [OHSW Flu Champion Declaration](#).
- 3) Please sign and submit OHSW Flu Champion Declaration form to ohswflu@nshealth.ca.

All competency readings, confirmations and assessments will be available on the [Stop the Flu intranet page](#). ****Pharmacists must show immunization permits.** Pharmacists interested in acting as a flu champion should contact Julia Connolly, Julia.connolly@nshealth.ca.

If you have any questions, please reach out to OHSWFlu@nshealth.ca

Appreciatively,

Jill Smith
Provincial Director Occupational Health Safety & Wellness
People Services