

September 26, 2019

Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2019-2020

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will again be offering the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). Initial vaccine orders will be distributed based on 2018-19 allocations to facilities that order and store publicly funded vaccines. It is estimated that vaccines will be sent to facilities by mid-October. The first delivery of vaccine should be targeted to **high priority groups**.

High Priority Groups

People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization

- Young children under five years of age (especially those younger than two years of age);
- Children (age 6 months to 18 years) with neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions or undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods;
- Adults 65 years of age and older;
- Individuals with neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions;
- Individuals of any age who are residents in long-term care home (LTCH) or other chronic care facilities;
- Individuals with underlying health conditions (e.g., cardiac/pulmonary disorders, renal disease, morbid obesity, diabetes and cancer or weakened immune systems);
- Pregnant women; and
- Indigenous Peoples.

Individuals capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk:

- Health care workers;
- Household contacts of those at high risk; and
- Persons who provide child care to children less than five years of age.

In addition, influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for individuals that work in the swine and poultry industry.

Publicly Funded Products

The products available this year are **Fluzone® High-Dose, FluLaval® Tetra, Fluzone® Quadrivalent, and Afluria® Tetra** (Pharmacies only). Vaccine allocation and distribution will be based on product availability. Please refer to the **Special Notes** section in the table below for information pertaining to the availability, allocation and ordering of some of these vaccines.

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine			High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine
UIIP Abbreviation	QIV			High-dose TIV
NACI Abbreviation	IIV4-SD			IIV3-HD
Vaccine Product	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent		Afluria® Tetra (Pharmacies Only) Fluzone® High Dose
Micrograms of HA	15 µg	15 µg		60µg
Dosage	0.5ml	0.5ml		0.5ml
Format	Multidose vial	Multidose vial (MDV) Prefilled Syringe (PFS)	Prefilled Syringe	Prefilled syringe
Route	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection		Intramuscular injection
Age Indication	≥6 Months	≥6 months		≥5 years ≥65 years
Most Common Allergens	Egg Protein Thimerosal	MDV PFS	Egg Protein Thimerosal Egg Protein	Egg Protein* Neomycin Polymyxin B Egg Protien*

*NACI indicates that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against Influenza using the full dose of any appropriate product, including high-dose TIV.

Legend:

TIV – Trivalent inactivated vaccine

High-Dose TIV – High dose trivalent inactivated vaccine

QIV – Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine

Special Notes:

1. Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose are different products. Fluzone® High-Dose is only authorized for those 65 years of age and over. Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products to ensure that the right vaccine is being administered to the right person.
2. Fluzone® High-Dose will be available through primary care providers (e.g. physicians and nurse practitioners), participating retirement homes, long-term care homes and hospitals. Fluzone® High-Dose will not be available through publicly funded program at pharmacies.
3. Afluria® Tetra is only authorized for children 5 years of age and over and should not be used in younger children.
4. Flumist® will not be available in Canada for the 2019/2020 influenza season.
5. Publicly funded influenza vaccines must be administered by a regulated health professional who is authorized to administer vaccines or by an appropriately training individual with the necessary equipment operating under delegating from a regulated health professional who is authorized to administer vaccines.

6. Publicly funded vaccine may be administered to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for the UIIP and without contraindications to the vaccine.
7. Trained pharmacists may only administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to individuals 5 years of age and older.

Which Vaccines are individuals eligible to receive as part of the UIIP?

Age Group	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Afluria® Tetra (Pharmacies Only)	Fluzone® High-Dose
6 months up to and including 4 years	✓	✓		
5 years up to and including 64 years	✓	✓	✓	
≥65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓

What strains of influenza are covered by the 2019/2020 influenza vaccines?

The Quadrivalent (QIV) seasonal influenza vaccine for 2019-2020 contains:

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage)

The High Dose Trivalent (HD-TIV) seasonal influenza vaccine for 2019-2020, as per World Health Organization recommendation, contains:

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage)

Vaccine Administration of Intramuscular (IM) injections

According to the Canadian Immunization Guide appropriate vaccine administration is essential to the optimal safety and efficacy of vaccines. Vaccine administration practices are based on clinical trials that determine the dose, route and schedule for each vaccine. The following table outlines proper Vaccine Administration of IM injections.

Vaccine Recipient	Recommended needle gauge	Recommended needle length
Infants, toddlers and older children	22-25	7/8 inch – 1 inch
Adolescents, adults	22-25	1 inch – 1 ½ inch
Refer to the Vaccine Administration Practices in the Canadian Immunization Guide for further information re: route site and technique for vaccine administration.		

Vaccine Orders

After using the initial allocation of influenza vaccine, please use the standard vaccine order form to order additional influenza vaccine for the high priority groups identified above. Vaccines may be ordered for the general public once the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officially launches the UIIP in late October (date TBA).

Resources

Please refer to the drug monographs and the NACI 2019-2020 Seasonal Influenza Statement for information on administration, product components, adverse events, recommendations, contraindications and precautions. The statement can be found at:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2019-2020.html>

UIIP and the Pneumococcal Immunization for High Risk Groups

There is considerable overlap in the indications for the influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. This provides an excellent opportunity to immunize eligible persons who have not yet received one dose of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

The pneumococcal vaccine may be administered concurrently with influenza vaccine, but each vaccine should be administered in a separate anatomical site.

All residents of nursing homes, homes for the aged and chronic care facilities or wards, as well as persons in the community over the age of 65 are eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine; these groups are considered at high risk.

Adults and children 2 years of age and older, who meet the high-risk criteria, are also eligible to receive the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. Please refer to the following tables in the *Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule in Ontario (December 2016)*:

- Table 2: Eligibility Criteria for All Publicly Funded Vaccines; and
- Table 3: High Risk Vaccine Programs

These tables can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/schedule.aspx>

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

Health care professionals are reminded to report adverse events following immunization to the Medical Officer of Health within 7 days of recognizing the reportable event. Please use the

Public Health Ontario AEFI form

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Vaccine-Safety.aspx>

Completed reports should be faxed to Public Health at 905-546-4078.

It is not necessary to report expected events such as injection site reactions and mild fever. Unexpected, severe and unusual adverse events should be reported promptly.

For more information about UIIP, please call 905-546-CITY (2489).

To download flu shot posters visit www.hamilton.ca/flu.