

## MEDICAL MEMO

### Influenza Universal Immunization Program Fall 2024/2025 Implementation Package

TO: Health Care Providers

FROM: Vaccine Program

DATE: September 27, 2024

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Ministry of Health will be launching COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza vaccination campaigns for the 2024/25 respiratory illness season. These programs will help reduce the risk of severe illness that could arise from COVID-19, RSV and influenza this season. Information about the infant RSV and adult RSV programs have been shared already, and more information will be shared regarding the COVID-19 fall program.

For facilities that have confirmed their participation in the 2024/25 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) the distribution of your initial allotment is expected to begin in early to mid-October.

The purpose of this memo is to share information about the supply of publicly funded influenza vaccines, as well as to provide you with with the Ministry of Health's Health Care provider letter and Q&A documents. Due to the size of the aforementioned Q&A's please be advised that they can be found at:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/vaccines-immunizations/flu-vaccine-clinics#resources-for-health-care-provider> (please click on Resources for Health care provider tab).

For the 2024/25 UIIP Program you will initially receive approximately 50% of your usage based on last year's administration data.

Estimated arrival date for the vaccine is during the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Order requests for additional influenza vaccine can be placed starting the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>, with anticipated delivery during the week of 21<sup>st</sup>. Please do not submit your influenza vaccine orders prior to October 15<sup>th</sup> as it will not be processed.

The Ministry of Health is recommending that health care providers who plan to hold large-scale influenza clinics wait until October 28<sup>th</sup> to ensure that an adequate supply of vaccine can be ordered based on available provincial/local supply.

As a primary care provider, your initial allotment of the publicly funded influenza vaccines is pre-determined by Public Health based on your previous year's usage. Additional orders will be filled based on the products and quantities that we have at any given time. We also work to ensure an equitable distribution of influenza vaccine to all health care providers placing orders.

If you would like to request your actuals for your initial allotment, please contact Hamilton Public Health at (905)546-2424 Ext. 2161. Please leave a message and we will have it returned in 1-2 business days.

**The first delivery of vaccine should be targeted to high priority groups.**

## High Priority Groups

### **Priority populations for immunization as soon as the vaccine becomes available:**

#### **1. People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization**

- Young children, 6 months to 4 years of age (especially those younger than two years of age);
- Adults 65 years of age and older;
- Individuals 6 months of age and older with the following underlying health conditions:
  - Cardiac or pulmonary disorders
  - Diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease
  - Cancer
  - Conditions or medication which compromise the immune system
  - Renal disease
  - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy
  - Neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions
  - Morbid obesity (body mass index of  $\geq 40$ )
  - Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods.
- Individuals of any age who are residents in long-term care home (LTCH) or other chronic care facilities;
- Pregnant women;
- Individuals who are from a First Nation, Inuit or Métis community, and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit or Métis, and their household members; and
- Members of racialized or other equity deserving communities.

#### **2. Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings**

### **Recommended additional priority populations for immunization starting October 28, 2024:**

- Household contacts of those at high risk; and
- Persons who provide childcare to children less than four years of age; and
- Members of a household expecting a newborn during the influenza season; and
- People who provide essential community services.

In addition, influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for individuals that work with birds or mammals and this group can be included as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

## Publicly Funded Products

The products available this year are **Fluzone® High-Dose, FluLaval® Tetra, Fluzone® Quadrivalent, Flucelvax® Quad** and **Afluria® Tetra**. 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		
<b>UIIP Abbreviation</b>	QIV		
<b>NACI Abbreviation</b>	IIV4-SD		
<b>Vaccine Product</b>	<b>FluLaval® Tetra</b>	<b>Fluzone® Quadrivalent</b>	<b>Flucelvax® Quad</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	GSK	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
<b>Micrograms of HA</b>	15 µg	15 µg	15 µg
<b>Dosage</b>	0.5ml	0.5ml	0.5ml
<b>Format</b>	Multidose vial	Multidose vial Prefilled Syringe	Prefilled Syringe
<b>Route</b>	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection
<b>Age Indication</b>	≥6 Months	≥6 months	≥6 months
<b>Most Common Allergens</b>	Egg Protein* Thimerosal	Multidose vial Egg Protein* Thimerosal	Does NOT contain egg protein or thimerosal.
		Prefilled Syringe Egg Protein*	

\*The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates that egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccination and that that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product. See Part 4 of NACI statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024-2025 for additional information about the recommendation for egg-allergic individuals ([Statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024–2025 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/immunization/naci/statements/2024-2025-seasonal-influenza-vaccine.html)).

**Legend:**

TIV – Trivalent inactivated vaccine

High-Dose TIV – High dose trivalent inactivated vaccine

QIV – Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine

In addition to the QIVs listed above the below vaccines are publicly funded for individuals 65 years of age and older in Ontario as part of the 2024/2025 UIIP.

	<b>Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine</b>	<b>High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine</b>
<b>UIIP Abbreviation</b>	TIV-adj	QIV-HD
<b>NACI Abbreviation</b>	IIV3-Adj	IIV4-HD
<b>Vaccine Product</b>	<b>Fluad®</b>	<b>Fluzone® High Dose Quadrivalent</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Seqirus	Sanofi Pasteur
<b>Micrograms of HA</b>	15 µg	60µg
<b>Dosage</b>	0.5ml	0.7ml
<b>Format</b>	Prefilled Syringe	Prefilled syringe
<b>Route</b>	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection
<b>Age Indication</b>	≥65 years	≥65 years
<b>Most Common Allergens</b>	Egg Protein* Kanamycin Neomycin	Egg Protein*

\*The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates that egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccination and that that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product. See Part 4 of NACI statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024-2025 for additional information about the recommendation for egg-allergic individuals ([Statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024–2025 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/immunization/naci/statements/2024-2025-seasonal-influenza-vaccine.html)).'

**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. Publicly funded influenza vaccines must be administered by a regulated health professional who is authorized under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* to administer vaccines, or by a trained individual under a delegation made in accordance with the requirements set by the regulatory College of the regulated health professional.
3. Publicly funded vaccine may be administered to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for the UIIP and without contraindications to the vaccine.
4. Trained pharmacists may only administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to individuals 2 years of age and older.

**Which influenza vaccines are individuals eligible to receive as part of the UIIP?**

Age Group	QIV			QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Flucelvax® Quad	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine
6 months up to and including 64 years	✓	✓	✓		
≥65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**What strains of influenza are covered by the 2024/2025 influenza vaccines?**

For the northern hemisphere’s 2024/2025 season, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the following strains be included in the influenza vaccines:

Influenza Strains	Egg-based QIVs (including Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent)	Egg-based TIVs (Fluad®)	Cell culture-based QIVs (Flucelvax®)
A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus	✓	✓	
A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus	New for 2024/2025	New for 2024/2025	
A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus			New for 2024/2025
A/Massachusetts/18/2022 (H3N2)-like virus			New for 2024/2025
B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus;	✓	✓	✓
B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.	✓		✓

**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.

Age and Weight of vaccine recipient		Recommended needle gauge	Recommended needle length
6 to 12 Months		22-25	7/8" – 1"
13 Months to 12 Years		22-25	5/8" – 1"
13 Years+	Individuals Weighing <130 lbs	22-25	5/8" – 1"
	Males weighing 130—260 lbs	22-25	1"
	Females weighing 130-200 lbs	22-25	1"
	Males weighing >260 lbs	22-25	1 ½"
	Females weighing >200 lbs	22-25	1 ½"
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 on or after October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Up until October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, influenza vaccine should be administered to the high priority groups identified above. Vaccines may be administered to the general public once the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officially launches the UIIP on October 28, 2024.

### Resources

Please refer to the drug monographs and the NACI 2024-2025 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/national-advisory-committee-immunization-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2024-2025.html>

### 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/health-topics/immunization/vaccine-safety>

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).

