

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) Pharmacy 2020-2021

Attention: Participating UIIP Pharmacies, NSM LHIN, Central LHIN

Date: September 23, 2020

Key Points:

- High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (HD-TIV) (High-Dose Fluzone®) should only be given to those 65 years of age and older. However, immunization should not be delayed if HD-TIV is not readily available.
- Fluzone® High-Dose will be available through primary care providers (physicians and nurse practitioners), participating retirement homes, long-term care homes and hospitals, and new for this year, participating pharmacies.
- Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV) products available this year:
 - FluLaval® Tetra: For anyone 6 months of age and older
 - Fluzone® Quadrivalent: For anyone 6 months of age and older
 - Flucelvax® Quad: For anyone 9 years of age and older
- Nasal spray vaccine (Flumist® Quadrivalent) will not be publicly funded for the 2020/2021 influenza season.
- Vaccinating children: Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age receiving seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time in their life should be given 2 doses of vaccine, with a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses.
- Flucelvax®Quad (distributed to pharmacies only) is a mammalian cell culture based, inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine that has recently been authorized for use in Canada in adults and children 9 years of age and older. Flucelvax®Quad is considered effective, immunogenic and safe in adults and children 9 years of age and older. It has a comparable immunogenicity and safety profile to egg-based influenza vaccines already licensed in Canada. See National Advisory Committee for Immunization (NACI) [supplemental statement](#)¹ for additional information.

Important Reminders:

- **Weekly temperature log sheet(s) must be submitted to Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) every Monday, via fax (705-726-3962) or email (vaccineorders@smdhu.org), starting Monday, September 28, 2020. Please clearly write pharmacy name and store number on the fax.**
- If you were required to prequalify for vaccine, and recently had your fridge inspection, you must submit five consecutive days of twice daily fridge temperatures between 2-8°C before your initial order can be filled.
- Temperature readings must be done and recorded in the log book twice a day every day. These temperature log sheets are reviewed by the SMDHU. If there is an issue with the temperature log, your status with the distributor will be placed on hold. This also applies if SMDHU does not receive temperature logs from your pharmacy. Once the issue has been resolved, you will be able to receive your order.
- Throughout the month of October, only those who meet the high risk criteria outlined below on page 4 are to be immunized. Once the annual UIIP is officially launched by the MOHLTC (late October/early November), vaccine can be administered to the general population.



As recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the following strains are included in this year's vaccines:

Quadrivalent vaccine – egg based vaccines:

- A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Washington/02/2019 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

Quadrivalent vaccine: Cell – recombinant-based vaccines:

- A/Hawaii/70/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/Hong Kong/45/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Washington/02/2019 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus

Trivalent vaccine – egg based vaccine:

- A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Washington/02/2019 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus

The National Advisory Committee for Immunization (NACI) Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2020-2021 can be found on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](#)ⁱⁱ.

To access product monographs for the publicly funded influenza vaccine products, visit the [Health Canada – Drug Product Database Online Query](#)ⁱⁱⁱ website and enter the product name to search.

The NACI publication on [Guidance for influenza vaccine delivery in the presence of COVID-19](#)^{iv} can be found on the Public Health Agency of Canada website.

Which vaccines are individuals eligible to receive in Ontario this year?

Age Group	QIV			High-Dose TIV
	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Flucelvax®Quad (pharmacies only)	Fluzone® High-Dose
6 months through 9 years	■	■		
9 years up to and including 64 years	■	■	■	
≥65 years*	■	■	■	■

NOTE: NACI has not identified any preference between QIV and HD TIV products for individuals 65 years of age and older.

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine			High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine				
UIIP Abbreviation	QIV			High-dose TIV				
NACI Abbreviation	IIV4-SD		IIV4-cc	IIV3-HD				
Vaccine product	FluLaval®Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Flucelvax®Quad	Fluzone® High-Dose				
Micrograms of HA	15 µg	15 µg	15 µg	60 µg				
Dosage	0.5 ml	0.5 ml	0.5 ml	0.5 ml				
Format	Multidose vial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidose vial (MDV) • Prefilled syringe (PFS) 	Prefilled syringe	Prefilled syringe				
Post Puncture Shelf-life	28 days	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MDV</td> <td>28 days</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PFS</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	MDV	28 days	PFS	N/A	N/A	N/A
MDV	28 days							
PFS	N/A							
Route	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection				
Age Indication	≥6 months	≥6 months	≥9 years	≥65 years				
Most Common Allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* • Thimerosal 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MDV</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* • Thimerosal </td> </tr> <tr> <td>PFS</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* </td> </tr> </table>	MDV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* • Thimerosal 	PFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does NOT contain egg protein 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein*
MDV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* • Thimerosal 							
PFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein* 							

*According to NACI, egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any appropriate product, including QIV, Q-LAIV and HD TIV.

Important Notes:

- 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.
- Trained pharmacists can only administer publicly funded flu vaccine to individuals 5 years of age and older.

Recommended needle gauge and length for vaccine recipient: Intramuscular Injections (IM)		
	Infants, Toddlers and Older children	Adolescents and Adults
Needle gauge	22-25	22-25
Needle length	7/8 – 1 inch	1 -1 1/2 inch

Please ensure stock of appropriate sized syringes and needles. Pre-filled syringes do not come with needle tips.

Publicly Funded Influenza vaccine is only initially to be administered to those who meet the following high risk criteria:

Individuals at high risk of influenza-related complications or more likely to require hospitalization which includes:

- All pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)
- People who are residents of LTCH or other chronic care facilities
- People ≥65 years of age
- All children 6-59 months of age
- Indigenous peoples
- Adults or children with chronic health conditions as follows:
 - cardiac or pulmonary disorders
 - diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease
 - cancer
 - conditions which compromise the immune system
 - renal disease
 - anemia or hemoglobinopathy
 - neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions
 - morbid obesity (body mass index of ≥40)
 - children 6 months to 18 years of age undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods

Individuals capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk which includes:

- Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings
- Household contacts (adults and children) of individuals at high risk of influenza related complications (includes household contacts of infants less than 6 months of age, and household members expecting a newborn during the influenza season)
- Persons who provide care to children ≤59 months of age
- Those who provide services in a closed/relatively closed setting to persons at high risk (e.g. crew on a ship)

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

HD TIV and non-high dose Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV) are available this year for those 65 years and older.

The choice between the HD TIV vs non-high dose QIV rests with the clinician and patient. Both are acceptable. Given the available information at this time, the SMDHU recommends HD TIV because of its higher effectiveness in preventing influenza A morbidity in those 65 years and older. However, immunization should not be delayed if your preferred vaccine is unavailable.

The following are relevant considerations when vaccinating adults 65 years of age and over.

Influenza A:

- The burden of influenza A/H3N2 is higher in adults 65 years of age and over compared to other strains. Seasons with circulation of influenza A/H3N2 result in more outbreaks, hospitalizations and deaths, which occur most commonly among older adults.
- The HD TIV provides better protection than Standard-Dose TIV (SD TIV), including against the A/H3N2 strain as demonstrated in a large randomized trial. The trial showed HD TIV to be 24.2% (95% CI: 9.7% to 36.5%) more effective compared to SD TIV in preventing laboratory-confirmed influenza. The A/H3N2 strain is the same in the SD TIV and SD QIV vaccines, so similar enhanced protection against the A/H3N2 found for HD TIV is also expected when compared to the SD QIV.

Influenza B:

- Although the HD TIV contains one less B strain than in the QIV, B strains occur less frequently in adults 65 years of age and over than A strains.
- There may be cross protection against B lineages, such that the TIV vaccine that contains B/Victoria may offer some protection against B/Yamagata and vice versa, although this may not always occur. Therefore, HD TIV may afford some protection against the B lineage not included in that vaccine.

Safety:

QIV and HD TIV are expected to have a generally similar safety profile. Local reactions and systemic adverse events occur somewhat more frequently with HD TIV than SD TIV. The systemic reactions are described as generally mild and short lived.

For more information, support materials and forms refer to the following websites:

- www.smdhu.org/pcportal
- <http://www.ontario.ca/flu>

Reporting of Adverse Events

A reminder that an *Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)* form must be filled out and faxed (705-726-3962) back to the Immunization Program for follow-up immediately following an unexpected adverse event.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccine ordering process please contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 5919.

If you are calling to report a Cold Chain Failure, or have any questions regarding influenza vaccines please contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.

ⁱ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/mammalian-cell-culture-based-influenza-vaccines.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2020-2021.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>

^{iv} <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-influenza-vaccine-delivery-covid-19.html>