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2025-2026 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

Attention: Long-Term Care Facilities, Retirement Homes, Hospital Pharmacies, Hospital Occupational, Health Nurses, Infection Prevention & Control Practitioners, Ontario Health Central

Date: September 19, 2025

Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) offers free influenza vaccine each year for individuals six months of age and older who live, work, or go to school in Ontario.

As recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), Ontario will be transitioning to trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV). As per WHO, the B/Yamagata strain of influenza has not been detected since March 2020. Including it in the vaccine is no longer warranted. The following strains that will be included in this year's Influenza vaccines:

Influenza Strains	Egg-based TIVs FluLaval Fluzone®	Cell culture- based TIVs Flucelvax®
A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;	✓	
A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus;	NEW	
A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;		✓
A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (H3N2)-like virus;		NEW
B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus;	✓	✓

All individuals in the COVID-19 and UIIP high-risk and priority groups are eligible for both vaccines as soon as available. Everyone who is eligible for COVID-19 early vaccination (prior to general population) is also eligible for UIIP early vaccination.

High-risk Populations: The following individuals are at increased risk of influenza-related complications or are more likely to require hospitalization and **should receive** the influenza vaccine **as soon as it becomes available in the Fall**:

- Residents in congregate living settings (e.g. chronic care facilities, long-term care homes, retirement homes)
- People 65 years of age and over
- All pregnant individuals

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<http://www.smdhu.org/PHA>

Receive urgent public health updates by email (such as Public Health Alert) by subscribing at: www.smdhu.org/PHAlert

- All children 6 months to 4 years of age
- Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities
- 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
 - Class 3 obesity (body mass index of 40 or more)
 - Children and adolescents (6 mths to 18 yrs) undergoing treatment with ASA for long periods

Priority Populations

To optimize co-administration with COVID-19 vaccine, the following individuals **may receive** influenza vaccine **as soon as it becomes available in the Fall**:

- Staff and care providers in congregate living settings (e.g. chronic care facilities, long-term care homes, retirement homes)
- Health care workers
- First responders
- Members of underserved communities
- Individuals whose occupational or recreational activities increase their risk of exposure to avian influenza A viruses
 - Individuals with significant exposure to birds or mammals are more likely to have significant exposure to influenza A(H5N1) through interactions with birds or mammals (such as poultry, livestock, slaughterhouse and processing plant workers, wildlife officers/researchers, and veterinarians). Seasonal influenza vaccines do not provide protection against infection with influenza A(H5N1) viruses. However, they may reduce the risk of seasonal human and influenza A(H5N1) virus co-infection and possible viral reassortment leading to a human-transmissible virus with pandemic potential.

General Population

All individuals (6 months of age and older without contraindications) who do not belong to the high-risk or priority populations described above **may receive** the influenza vaccine **starting on October 27, 2025**.

Individuals in the following two groups are **particularly recommended** to receive the vaccine:

- Individuals capable of transmitting influenza to those listed in the high-risk populations section above and/or to infants under 6 months of age:
 - Care providers in the community
 - Household contacts (adults and children) of individuals at high risk of influenza related complications
 - Persons who provide care to children ≤ 4 years of age
 - Members of a household expecting a newborn during the influenza season
 - Those who provide services within a closed or relatively closed setting to people at high risk of influenza-related complications (e.g. crew on a ship)
- People who provide essential community services

Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines for Individuals 6 months thorough 64 years

	Trivalent Inactivated Vaccines		
UIIP Abbreviation	TIV		
NACI Abbreviation	IIV3-SD		IV3-cc
Vaccine product	Fluviral	Fluzone®	Flucelvax®
Manufacturer	GSK	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
Age indication	≥6 months	≥6 months	≥6 months
Vaccine type	Egg-based	Egg-based	Cell culture-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	15 µg	15 µg	15 µg
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Format	MDV	MDV and PFS	PFS
Route	IM	IM	IM
Most common allergens ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Formaldehyde • Thimerosal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Formaldehyde • Thimerosal³ 	Does NOT contain egg protein, formaldehyde or thimerosal

MDV = Multi-dose vial PFS = Pre-filled syringe IM = Intramuscular injection

NACI = National Advisory Committee on Immunization

¹ Any component in a vaccine may be a potential allergen. This table identifies the most common allergens.

² See the contraindications and precautions section on page 6 regarding egg allergies.

³ Multi-dose vial format only.

Important notes:

- Fluzone® and Fluzone® High-Dose are DIFFERENT products. Fluzone® High-Dose is authorized ONLY for individuals aged 65 years and older. Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products.

Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age who have not previously received at least 1 dose of the seasonal influenza vaccine require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (each dose 0.5mL), with a minimum of 4 weeks between doses.

For more information about influenza vaccines for those 6 months through 64 years, please refer to the [Ministry of Health - Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age](#).

Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines for Anyone 65 Years of Age and Older

The TIV-HD and TIV-adj vaccines should be offered, when available, over TIV influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older. If a preferred product is not available, any of the available age-appropriate influenza vaccines should be used. The most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated. Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular product.

	2. High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine	3. Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine
UIIP Abbreviation	TIV-HD	TIV-adj
NACI Abbreviation	IIV3-HD	IIV3-Adj
Vaccine product	Fluzone® High-Dose	Fluad®
Manufacturer	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
Age indication	≥65 years	≥65 years
Vaccine type	Egg-based	Egg-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	60 µg	15 µg
Dosage	0.5 mL (NEW)	0.5 mL
Adjuvant	No	Yes
Format	PFS	PFS
Route	IM	IM
Most common allergens ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Formaldehyde 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Formaldehyde • Kanamycin • Neomycin

PFS = Pre-filled syringe IM = Intramuscular injection

NACI = National Advisory Committee on Immunization

¹ Any component in a vaccine may be a potential allergen. This table identifies the most common allergens.

² See the contraindications and precautions section on page 7 regarding egg allergies

³ Multi-dose vial format only

For more information about influenza vaccines for those 65 years of age and older, please refer to the [Ministry of Health - Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals greater than 65 years of age](#).

Co-administration with Other Vaccines

Influenza vaccines may be given on the same day, or at any time before or after other vaccines (including COVID-19 & RSV vaccines) for anyone 6 months of age and older.

View all current Public Health Alerts by visiting the Health Professionals Resource page at:
www.smdhu.org/HPR

There are no direct studies on the co-administration of Shingrix® with Fludax® (TIV-adj) or Fluzone® High-Dose (TIV-HD). With Fludax®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact when Shingrix® is co-administered.

Reporting Adverse Events

An [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) form](#) must be filled out and faxed to the Immunization Program's fax line at **705-726-3962** for follow-up as soon as possible following any unexpected adverse events. See Public Health Ontario's [AEFI Reporting Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Vaccine Ordering Information

Initial influenza vaccine supply is only to be administered to those included in the priority list on page 2. Everyone else will have to wait until October 25th to receive their annual influenza vaccine.

Facilities	Order Due By	Ready for Pick up	Product	Maximum Quantity
Hospitals For high-risk patients (per list on pg. 2) & staff	Wed Oct 1 st by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 8 th at 8:30 a.m.	TIV-HD TIV *See below	Based on assessment of your facilities needs
LTCHs & RHomes For residents, staff and essential caregivers	Wed Oct 1 st by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 8 th at 8:30 a.m.	TIV-HD TIV **See below	Based on bed numbers
Reorders	Wed Oct 15 th by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 22 nd at 8:30 a.m.	TIV-HD TIV	Based on local supply

Hospitals*

Order as needed for patients considered high-risk as per list on page 2 and staff. Order TIV-HD for any patients who are 65+, and order TIV for the remaining. Pre-filled syringes (PFS) will be shipped, so please only order what your fridge can safely store. If you would prefer multi-dose vials, please note this on your order form. PFS do not come with needle tips, so ensure you have some on hand to administer.

Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

Order the number of doses of TIV-HD for residents who are 65+ and order TIV for any residents under 65. Vaccine packaging is large, so please only order what your fridge can safely store, and re-order as needed.

If you have a medical directive in place to immunize staff and essential caregivers, order the required number of TIV doses required. TIV for staff may be either pre-filled syringe or multi-dose vial based on SMDHU inventory availability. TIV-HD will be provided in a pre-filled syringe but does not come with a needle tip so please ensure you have enough needle tips in stock.

To order Influenza vaccine, complete the Influenza [Vaccine online order form](#). Each time you order influenza vaccine, you must include your temperature log sheet(s) for the previous four weeks.

If there is a reason you are ordering a large amount of vaccine (i.e., you have a clinic booked), please note

this on the order form so that SMDHU staff can take this into account when reviewing your order, **noting supply for large clinics will not be available until November.**

Ensure your vaccine fridge can accommodate the influenza vaccine you order, and ensure you come with enough cooler capacity to pick up the vaccine you have ordered. You may need to make more than 1 trip to pick up your order or bring an additional hard-sided cooler and thermometer as we do not have any extra supplies to loan out.

For more information, please visit our website at www.smdhu.org/hpportal or contact the Immunization Program at 705-721-7520 or toll free at 1-877-721-7520.

- For questions regarding vaccine orders: ext. 8808 or vaccineorders@smdhu.org
- For all other HCP questions: ext. 8806 or hc.vpd@smdhu.org