

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health

2025-2026 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

Attention: Participating UIIP Pharmacies, Ontario Health Central, Family Health Teams, Ontario Health Teams, Indigenous Health Care & Community, Municipalities

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
- 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 younger than 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.

There are no direct studies on the co-administration of Shingrix® with Fludac® (TIV-adj) or Fluzone® High-Dose (TIV-HD). With Fludac®, 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.

Important Reminders for Pharmacies

Health care providers are only to immunize those in the high-risk groups outlined on page 2 until October 25th, 2025. At that time, influenza vaccine will be available to everyone.

Weekly temperature log sheets must be submitted to Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit **every Monday by 12 noon, starting Monday, September 29, 2025** (if not already doing so) via:

- ✓ **Fax: 705-726-3962** or **Email: vaccineorders@smdhu.org**

When **submitting your log sheets for the first time, please include the previous 4 weeks.**

- ✓ Temperature readings must be done and recorded in the logbook twice a day, every day while your pharmacy is open (including dates and times of readings).
- ✓ If you recently had your inspection and do not have 4 weeks of temperature logs, please submit at least five consecutive days of twice daily fridge temperatures so your initial order can be filled.

Please clearly write your pharmacy name and store number on the temperature log. Failure to do so may result in suspension (as we may be unable to identify which store submitted the temperature log).

Additional Resources

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
- Submitting temperature logs: ext. 8808 or vaccineorders@smdhu.org