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2026-2027 Fall Immunization Programs: COVID-19, Influenza and Older Adult RSV Programs

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

Date: September 24, 2026

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. The influenza vaccine is the best defense against getting and spreading the influenza virus, helping to save lives and reduce the strain on our health care system. **There is evidence to show influenza vaccination provides added benefit in protecting against other diseases such as invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS) or worsening of existing chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease.**

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program aims to ensure Ontarians are protected against COVID-19 disease including severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) continues to strongly recommend COVID-19 immunization for individuals at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure or severe COVID-19 disease annually with some individuals recommended to receive a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine per year. All other individuals 6 months of age and older, may also receive the COVID-19 vaccine on an annual basis. The mechanism of increased protection from an updated COVID-19 vaccine is likely a combination of both providing a recent vaccination that boosts the immune response and providing a vaccine that is more closely related to the circulating strain.

COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines will be prioritized as follows:

When immunizations start	Populations
As soon as vaccine is available	- Patients/residents, staff and care providers in hospitals and congregate living settings (e.g., long-term care homes, chronic care facilities, retirement homes) - High-risk and priority populations as detailed in the following Ministry Health Care Provider Fact Sheets: HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 Influenza Vaccine for 6 months to 64 years HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 Influenza Vaccine for ≥ 65 years
October 26, 2026	General Population

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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.

Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines for Individuals 6 months through 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	• Egg protein² • Formaldehyde • Thimerosal	• 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 According to [NACI](#), egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product, including TIV.

³ Multi-dose vial format only.

Important note: 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, refer to the [Ministry of Health - HCP Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age](#).

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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 available influenza vaccine should be used. The most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated. Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular product.

UIIP Abbreviation	High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-HD)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (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	0.5 mL
Adjuvant	No	Yes
Route	IM	IM
Most common allergens ¹	- Egg protein² - Formaldehyde	- Egg protein² - Formaldehyde - Kanamycin - Neomycin

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 According to [NACI](#), egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product, including TIV.

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

Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines

For the 2026/2027 COVID-19 vaccine program, an updated XFG formulation will be used. Any remaining LP.8.1 formulation from last season is to be discarded.

Ontario will have two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, Spikevax® & Comirnaty®, and one protein subunit COVID-19 vaccine, Nuvaxoid®, available this year. Not all vaccine brands will be available at all times or at all locations. All publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines are equivalent and provide the same protection. HCPs should use the vaccine (according to the products' age indications) that is available unless contraindication to a specific vaccine.

Timing of Immunization	Population	Immunization Status	# of eligible doses
Fall Doses 2026 (Sept to Jan ¹)	All	Completed primary series	1 dose
		Primary series not completed	1 or more doses ²
Spring Doses 2027 (April to June ³)	High-risk populations Group 1	Fall dose(s) were received	1 additional dose
		Fall dose(s) were not received	Receive fall dose(s) ⁴
	Individuals not part of the high-risk populations in Group 1	Fall dose(s) were received or not received	None ⁵

¹ [High-risk populations groups 1 and 2 should, and priority populations](#) may receive doses as soon as they are available. The general population may receive doses starting on October 26. Fall doses can continue to be received until March 31.

² To determine the appropriate immunization schedule, refer to Figure 1: Immunization algorithm and for detailed schedules refer to Tables 2 to 5 in the Appendices of the [Ministry of Health – HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#).

³ Spring doses may continue to be given only to severely immunocompromised individuals until August 31. These individuals must be assessed by their healthcare provider to determine if immunization cannot wait until the next annual COVID-19 vaccine program (i.e., 2027/2028) and receipt of the updated formulation that will provide optimum protection against the circulating strains can be delayed.

⁴ The additional dose (i.e. second dose per year) is not required.

⁵ Individuals not belonging to the high-risk populations group 1 are not eligible to receive dose(s) in the spring regardless of if dose(s) were received in the fall. These individuals are recommended to be vaccinated during the next annual COVID-19 vaccine program (i.e., 2027/2028) to ensure optimal protection against circulating strains.

Children receiving COVID-19 vaccine for the first time, should receive 2 doses of vaccine administered 8 weeks apart. Additional doses may also be recommended for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. Refer to the [Ministry of Health - HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) for more detailed information.

	Spikevax®		Comirnaty®	Nuvaxoid®*
Manufacturer	Moderna Biopharma Canada		BioNTech Manufacturing	Sanofi Vaccines Canada
Vaccine Type	mRNA		mRNA	Protein subunit
Age Indications	6 mths to 11 yrs	12 yrs and older	12 yrs and older	12 yrs and older
Dosage	25 µ / 0.25 mL	50 µ / 0.5 mL	30 mcg / 0.3 mL	5 mcg / 0.5 mL
Route	IM	IM	IM	IM
Format	MDV	MDV or PFS	MDV or PFS	PFS
Post Puncture Shelf Life for MDV	24 hours		12 hours	n/a

*There is only a limited supply of Nuvaxoid® subunit vaccine available. HCPs needing to order this vaccine for a patient will need to complete a [special order form](#). There will also be limited supply of this vaccine available through the pharmacy channel.

For more information about the COVID-19 Vaccine program, refer to the [Ministry of Health - HCP Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#).

Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program

The Older Adult RSV vaccine program is now an ongoing year-round immunization program. Evidence supports the use of a single dose of RSV vaccine to help prevent RSV disease in adults 60 years and older. **As such, if an individual received a dose of RSV vaccine previously, they do not need to receive another dose at this time.** The timing for subsequent doses is unknown at this time. Studies are ongoing to determine the duration of protection.

The following groups are eligible to receive RSV vaccine:

- Those 75 years and older
- Those 60–74 years who are also:
 - residents of a long-term care home, Elder Care Lodge, or retirement home including similar settings e.g., co-located facilities
 - patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care (ALC) including similar settings (for example, complex continuing care, hospital transitional programs)
 - individuals on home oxygen or requiring chronic oxygen therapy, regardless of residence

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- patients with glomerulonephritis (GN) who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
- patients receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- recipients of solid organ transplants
- recipients of a hematopoietic stem cell transplant within the last two years or with ongoing immunosuppression
- individuals experiencing homelessness
- individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis (FNIM)

For more information about the Older Adult RSV Vaccine program, click [here](#).

NOTE: Information about the Infant RSV Immunization Program will be sent out in a separate Public Health Alert.

Co-administration of Vaccines

Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines may be given on the same day, or at any time before or after any other vaccines.

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

Facilities	Order Due By	Ready for Pick up	Product	Maximum Quantity
Hospitals For high-risk patients & staff	Wed Sept 30 th by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 7 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 Sept 30 th by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 7 th at 8:30 a.m.	TIV-HD TIV **See below	Based on bed numbers
Reorders	Wed Oct 21 st by 3 p.m.	Wed Oct 28 th at 8:30 a.m.	TIV-HD TIV	Based on local supply

Hospitals*

Order as needed for patients who are high-risk 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 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's (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 COVID-19, Influenza, or RSV vaccines, complete the [Fall Vaccine online order form](#). Each time you order, 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 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/HPR 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