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Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) 2021-2022

Attention: Long-Term Care Facilities; Rest & Retirement Homes; Hospitals; Infection Control Practitioners; Hospital Occupational Health Nurses; Hospital Pharmacies; LHIN

Date: September 24, 2021

Key Points:

The following influenza vaccines will be available for the 2021-2022 flu season:

Age Group	QIV				QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Flucelvax® Quad	Afluria® Tetra	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
6 months to 1 year	✓	✓				
2 to 4 years	✓	✓	✓			
5 to 64 years	✓	✓	✓	✓		
≥ 65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent (QIV-HD) – for those 65 years of age and older living in congregate settings such as hospitals, long-term care homes, and retirement homes. Any remaining supply will be available for primary care providers for their most at risk patients 65+ with multiple co-morbidities

Fluad® Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj) – for those 65 years of age and older.

Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular product. The QIV, QIV-HD and TIV-adj all protect against the flu, and the most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated. The following are relevant considerations when vaccinating adults 65 years of age and older:

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.



Influenza B

- Although the TIV-adj 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.

Flucelvax® Quad is a mammalian cell culture based, inactivated seasonal influenza vaccine that has been authorized for use in Canada. This vaccine is manufactured using cell culture (similar to other vaccines) instead of egg culture. It is considered effective, immunogenic and safe in adults and children 2 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](#) for additional information.

Vaccine Ordering Information

As in previous years, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will only receive part of their flu vaccine allocation initially. Every effort will be made to distribute the vaccine as equitably as possible to ensure that all health care providers (HCPs) receive some supply to immunize their most vulnerable patients.

In October, HCPs are to be immunizing only those who meet the high-risk criteria outlined below. Once the annual UIIP is officially launched by the Ministry of Health (late October/early November), vaccine can be administered to the general population. HCPs should not book any large clinics for patients that are not high risk until November. To assist with planning, the following allocation and timelines have been established for vaccine ordering:

Health Care Provider	Order Due By	Ready for Pick up	Product	Maximum Quantity
Hospitals – high risk patients as per list below	Wed Sept 29 th	Wed Oct 6 th	QIV-HD for 65+ QIV	Based on assessment
LTCH and Retirement Home Residents	Wed Sept 29 th	Wed Oct 6 th	QIV-HD QIV for any residents under 65	Based on bed numbers
Staff	Wed Sept 29 th	Wed Oct 6 th	QIV	Order one week supply initially

Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes

Order the number of doses of QIV-HD (residents 65+) & QIV (for any residents under 65) that you require for residents. Note: 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 for staff immunization, order the required number of QIV doses.

Orders submitted by 3:00 p.m. on a Wednesday will be ready the following Wednesday. QIV-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. QIV for staff may be either pre-filled syringe or multi-dose vial based on SMDHU inventory availability.

Hospitals

Order as needed for those considered high risk as per listing below - QIV-HD (patients 65+) & QIV (for patients under 65 & staff). **Orders submitted by 3:00 p.m. on a Wednesday will be ready the following Wednesday.** Pre-filled syringes will be shipped, so please only order what your fridge can safely store.

Administering COVID-19 Vaccine and Influenza Vaccine

At this time, NACI does not recommend co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines including influenza vaccine. Currently it is recommended that those who received a COVID-19 vaccine wait 28 days to receive other vaccines (i.e. influenza), and those who received a vaccine other than COVID-19 wait 14 days to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. We understand this is currently under review by NACI and will share further updates if this recommendation changes.

Other Important Ordering Reminders

- If you were required to pre-qualify for influenza 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.
- Each time you order influenza vaccine, you must submit by fax your temperature log sheet(s) for the previous four weeks. Temperature readings must be done and recorded in the logbook twice a day every day. These temperature log sheets are reviewed by SMDHU prior to vaccine being released.
- The package sizes of some products may also impact fridge space. SMDHU staff may adjust orders taking into account your current inventory, the size of your vaccine fridge and current vaccine supply.
- 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 staff can take this into account when reviewing your order.
- Unfortunately, we do not have a way of tracking balances remaining that were not filled on previous orders. If you require additional vaccine beyond what you received in your order, you will need to submit another vaccine order along with your updated temperature logs.
- Only influenza vaccine orders submitted on this year's Influenza Vaccine Order Form will be filled. Be sure to choose the appropriate form based on which health unit office you pick up vaccine from. ([Barrie, Collingwood, Cookstown or Midland](#)) or ([Gravenhurst, Huntsville or Orillia](#)).

Which Strains of Influenza are Recommended to be Included in the Vaccine Products Offered in the 2021/2022 UIIP?

Influenza Strains	Egg-based QIVs (including Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent)	Egg-based TIVs (Fluad®)	Cell-culture based QIVs (Flucelvax® Quad)
A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;	✓	✓	
A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;			✓
A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like virus;	✓	✓	✓
B/Washington/02/2019-like virus (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus;	✓	✓	✓

B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.	✓		✓
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The same influenza virus strain may not be optimal for both egg- and cell culture-based production systems, so a different influenza virus strain with similar properties is used.

The NACI [Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2021-22](#) can be found on the Public Health Agency of Canada website.

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

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

Which Vaccines are Individuals Eligible to Receive in Ontario This Year?

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine			
UIIP Abbreviation	QIV			
NACI Abbreviation	IIV4-SD			IIV4-cc
Vaccine product	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone [®] Quadrivalent	Afluria [®] Tetra	Flucelvax [®] Quad
Age indication	≥6 months	≥6 months	≥5 years	≥2 years
Manufacturer	GSK	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus	Seqirus
Vaccinetype	Egg-based	Egg-based	Egg-based	Cell culture-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	15 µg	15 µg	15 µg	15 µg
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Format	MDV	1. MDV 2. PFS	1. MDV 2. PFS	PFS
Route	IM	IM	IM	IM
Most common allergens ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg protein ² <input type="checkbox"/> Thimerosal ³	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg protein ² <input type="checkbox"/> Thimerosal ³	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg protein ² <input type="checkbox"/> Neomycin <input type="checkbox"/> Polymyxin B <input type="checkbox"/> Thimerosal ³	Does NOT contain egg protein or thimerosal

MDV = Multi-dose vial PFS = Prefilled syringe IM = Intramuscular injection

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

² 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.

³ Multi-dose vial format only.

Note: Afluria[®] Tetra will only be offered in pharmacies for the 2021-2022 season.

Which Vaccines are Individuals 65 Years of Age and Older Eligible to Receive in Ontario This Year?

	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine
UIIP Abbreviation	QIV-HD	TIV-adj
NACI Abbreviation	IIV4-HD	IIV3-Adj
Vaccine product	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
Age indication	≥65 years	≥65 years
Manufacturer	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
Vaccinetype	Egg-based	Egg-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	60 µg	15 µg
Dosage	0.7 mL	0.5 mL
Adjuvant	No	Yes
Format	PFS	PFS
Route	IM	IM
Most common allergens ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg protein ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Egg protein ² <input type="checkbox"/> Kanamycin <input type="checkbox"/> Neomycin

PFS = Pre-filled syringe

IM = Intramuscular injection

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

² The 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.

Important Notes

- Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose are different products. Fluzone® High-Dose is only authorized for those 65 years of age and older. 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 influenza vaccines to individuals 2 years of age and older.
- 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.
- The shelf-life for all three multi-dose vial products provided in this season's UIIP is 28 days post-vial puncture.

Throughout the month of October, only those who meet the high risk criteria outlined below are to be immunized. Once the annual UIIP is officially launched by the province (late October/early November), vaccine can be administered to the general population.

High Risk Eligibility 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.

Safety

QIV and TIV-adj are expected to have a generally similar safety profile. Local reactions and systemic adverse events occur somewhat more frequently with TIV-adj than QIV-HD. 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

An *Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI)* form must be filled out and faxed (705-726-3962) to the Immunization Program for follow-up immediately following any unexpected adverse events. 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. 8808.

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.