

2023/2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) now accepting applications Update to York Region Pharmacies as of May 11, 2023

The Ministry of Health is now accepting applications for the 2023/2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP).

If your pharmacy would like to safely store, handle, and administer publicly-funded influenza vaccines during the upcoming season, please complete and submit your application to the Ministry of Health on or **before June 30, 2023**. Pharmacies that are participating in the annual UIIP are encouraged to also participate in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program.

Pharmacies that do not apply for UIIP 2023/2024 cannot participate in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program. Enrollment of non-UIIP pharmacies in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program will end on June 30, 2023.

For information on the UIIP application process, including the User Agreement, please visit the Ministry of Health website: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/> or see the four-step application process below.

1. Complete and submit an online application form to UIIP.MOH@Ontario.ca

Pharmacies will need to submit the [User Agreement for Pharmacies with a Licensed Injection-Trained Pharmacist](#) (available at the website above). **Note:** The User Agreement is an online, paperless process and pharmacies are encouraged to complete their applications electronically in advance of the June 30, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. EST deadline.

A valid insurance policy covering the period September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024 is required. Insurance requirement details can be found in the User Agreement.

2. Receipt of a Ministry email confirming application submission

The Ministry will respond within two business days to ALL application form submissions.

3. Cold chain inspection

York Region Public Health (YRPH) will conduct a cold chain inspection to assess your compliance with the Ministry's vaccine storage and handling requirements which are detailed in the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

YRPH will only have **one** opportunity to conduct the required cold chain inspection for each pharmacy, so pharmacies must be well-prepared for the inspection.

In preparation for your inspection, please review the following and ensure you meet the requirements:

- [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#)
- York Region Public Health vaccine storage and handling [instructional videos](#)
- Additional Recommendations, below

You may experience delays in your inspection due to the high volume of inspections that occur at this time.

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york.ca/vaccineinventory



4. Approval to participate in the 2023/2024 UIIP

All pharmacies approved for receiving influenza vaccine through this process will be notified by email from the Ministry of Health prior to the launch of the 2023/2024 UIIP in Fall 2023. The 2023/2024 UIIP implementation materials will be available at ontario.ca/influenza in Fall 2023.

Additional Recommendations

A cold chain inspection can happen any time after your application is accepted by the Ministry. YRPH will only have one opportunity to conduct the required cold chain inspection for each pharmacy, so pharmacies must be well-prepared for the inspection.

To prepare for your inspection, we recommend the following steps:

- Assess the suitability of your vaccine refrigerator and consider upgrading to a purpose-built (or laboratory grade) refrigeration unit to ensure vaccines are stored safely. Please view this [infographic](#) for further details.
- Using a digital max/min thermometer, document refrigerator temperatures (current, maximum, and minimum) twice daily including the date, time, and your initials in the [Vaccine Temperature Log Book](#). A digital max/min thermometer with a glycol-enclosed probe is recommended. Please view this [infographic](#) for further details.

Example:

Month: Nov 2020 Office/Facility: YOR-NW-12345 ABC Family Pharmacy

| Week 1 | Mon | 1 | Tue | 2 | Wed | 3 | Thur | 4 | Fri | 5 | Sat | 6 | Sun | 7 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Time | 9:05 AM | 5:02 PM | 9:08 AM | 4:58 PM | 9:03 AM | 5:06 PM | 9:11 AM | 5:07 PM | 9:16 AM | 5:10 PM | 9:03 AM | 5:10 PM | 10:00 AM | 5:05 PM |
| Current Temp | 5.8 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| Max Temp | 6.0 | 5.0 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 6.1 | 4.6 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| Min Temp | 3.4 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| Initials | ER | ER |

At least five (5) continuous business days of temperature recordings are required to demonstrate the vaccine refrigerator is working within the acceptable range of +2.0°C to +8.0°C prior to your inspection.

- Ensure a copy of the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) is readily available
- Review your previous year's cold chain inspection report and ensure outstanding issues have been addressed
- Change the batteries of your thermometers every six months and document the date when the change was made in the Vaccine Temperature Log Book
- Ensure your transport cooler and supplies (including ice packs and fridge blankets) are readily available
- Cold chain supplies including temperature log books, transport coolers, thermometers, ice packs and fridge blankets can be obtained free of charge from one of the YRPH office locations listed below:
 - 17150 Yonge Street, Newmarket
 - 9060 Jane Street, Vaughan
 - 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill
 - 4261 Highway 7 East, Markham
 - 24262 Woodbine Avenue, Georgina

- Remove all expired flu vaccines from the refrigerator and complete the [Non-Reusable Vaccines Wastage Form](#). Drop off expired vaccines along with a completed form at any of the YRPH office locations listed above, Monday to Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Questions? Contact York Region Public Health

If you have any questions about the UIIP or vaccine storage and handling requirements, visit york.ca/vaccineinventory, contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or email vaccineinventory@york.ca.

Thank you for your interest in the 2023/2024 UIIP and we look forward to your participation.