

Preparing for the 2022/23 Universal Influenza Immunization Program

Update for York Region pharmacies as of October 7, 2022

The upcoming influenza (flu) season is near and demand for flu shots is expected to be high. York Region Public Health (YRPH) is here to help you navigate [Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#) and prepare for flu season. The flu shot is the best protection against getting and spreading the flu. It can help reduce illness and mitigate impacts on the healthcare system associated with the co-circulation of flu and COVID-19 again this season.

The flu shot is available free of charge for individuals who live, work, or attend school in Ontario and is recommended for everyone six months of age and over without contraindications.

Access to and uptake of the flu vaccine is especially important this season with an expected wave of COVID-19 likely to occur in co-circulation with influenza. For individuals five years of age and older, COVID-19 vaccines may be given concurrently with (i.e., same day), or at any time before or after, non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live and non-live vaccines). No studies have been conducted that have assessed the **co-administration of Shingrix®** with adjuvanted or high-dose influenza vaccines. With Fludax®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact when Shingrix® is co-administered.

Co-administration of other vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine is **NOT** currently recommended for individuals six months to under five years of age. It is advised to wait 14 days between COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccine products in those under five years of age to prevent mistakenly connecting an adverse event to one particular vaccine or the other. For more information on the co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines, please refer to the following:

- [COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide](#)
- [Summary of NACI statement of July 14, 2022: Recommendations on the use of Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 months to 5 years of age](#)

- YRPH will not be distributing publicly funded flu vaccine to UIIP-participating pharmacies. Instead, pharmacies will be ordering and receiving vaccines from their Ministry-contracted wholesale distributor.
- Publicly funded flu vaccines must be administered by a regulated health professional who is authorized under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 to administer vaccines, or by a trained individual under a delegation made in accordance with the requirements set by the regulatory College of the regulated health professional.
- Injection-trained pharmacists may only administer publicly funded flu vaccine to individuals two years of age and older. Pharmacists should prioritize immunizing individuals at high risk of influenza complications and hospitalization once flu vaccines are received. Refer to the list of individuals considered high risk on pages 5 and 6 of this notice.
- Pharmacy staff are required to submit vaccine refrigerator temperature logs to YRPH by e-mail to coldchain@york.ca (preferred) or fax to 905-830-0578 every Wednesday before 11:59 p.m. EST on a weekly basis for the duration of the UIIP.
- Failure to submit vaccine refrigerator temperature logs or incomplete temperature documentation will result in suspension of flu vaccine ordering for a minimum of seven days.
- Contact YRPH immediately at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065 to report any exposures of flu vaccine to temperatures below +2.0 °C or above +8.0 °C. Do not use or discard the exposed vaccines until YRPH has completed an assessment of the situation and determined the viability of the vaccines.

Publicly funded Influenza vaccines available for 2022/23

Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV) (for all adults and for children per indicated ages)			
Vaccine product	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Afluria® Tetra <small>*available at pharmacies only</small>
Age indication	≥6 months	≥6 months	≥5 years
Vaccine type	Egg-based	Egg-based	Egg-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	15µg	15µg	15µg
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Route	intramuscular	intramuscular	intramuscular
Format	MDV	MDV, PFS	MDV, PFS
Most common allergens ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Thimerosal³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Thimerosal³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Neomycin • Polymyxin B • Thimerosal³

MDV = Multi-dose vial

PFS = Prefilled syringe

Available for those 65 years of age and older		
	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj)
Vaccine product	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
Age indication	≥65 years	≥65 years
Vaccine type	Egg-based	Egg-based
Micrograms of hemagglutinin	60 µg	15 µg
Dosage	0.7 mL	0.5 mL
Adjuvant	No	Yes
Route	intramuscular	intramuscular
Format	PFS	PFS
Most common allergens ¹	Egg protein ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg protein² • Kanamycin • Neomycin

PFS = Pre-filled syringe

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

2 NACI indicates that egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccination and that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product.

3 Multi-dose vial format only.

Approved age groups for Influenza vaccines

Age Group	QIV			QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Afluria® Tetra <small>*available at pharmacies only</small>	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
6 months to 4 years	✓	✓			
5 to 64 years	✓	✓	✓		
≥ 65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Important notes about the Influenza vaccines

- Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent are **different products**. Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent is only authorized for those 65 years of age and over. **Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products to ensure that the right vaccine is being administered to the right person.**
- Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent and Fluad® will be available through hospitals, long-term care homes, primary care providers (e.g., physicians and nurse practitioners), participating pharmacies and retirement homes.
- FluMist® and Flucelvax® will not be publicly funded for the 2022/2023 influenza season.
- Afluria® Tetra will be distributed to pharmacies only. **This product is authorized for children 5 years of age and over and should not be used in younger children.** For children 2 to 4 years of age, pharmacists may administer FluLaval® Tetra or Fluzone® Quadrivalent.
- Children under 9 years of age who were previously immunized with at least one dose of flu vaccine in their lifetime and all individuals 9 years of age and older should receive 1 dose of flu vaccine each season.
- Children under 9 years of age who have not previously been immunized with a flu vaccine in their lifetime should receive 2 doses of flu vaccine at least 4 weeks apart. The same vaccine product does not need to be used for both doses.
- Multi-dose vials contain 10 doses per vial and have a 28-day post-puncture shelf life. Any doses remaining in a punctured multi-dose vial must be discarded 28 days after first puncture.

Important notes for pharmacies

- Pharmacists may administer flu vaccine to individuals outside the pharmacy but within the boundaries of their public health unit. Pharmacists may not administer flu vaccines to hospital in-patients and licensed long-term care home residents.
- Pharmacists who will be administering flu vaccine to retirement home residents must bring their own supply of flu vaccine to the retirement home. Pharmacists may **not** administer flu vaccines that have been ordered by retirement home staff from YRPH.
- Pharmacy staff are required to submit vaccine refrigerator temperature logs to YRPH by e-mail to coldchain@york.ca (preferred) or fax to 905-830-0578 every Wednesday before 11:59 p.m. EST on a weekly basis for the duration of the UIIP. A minimum of five (5) days of temperature recordings are required with each submission (from Wednesday to Wednesday). Failure to submit temperature logs weekly or incomplete temperature documentation will result in the suspension of vaccine orders from your distributor for a minimum of seven days.

- Temperature log submission dates are as follows:

☐ September 7, 2022	☐ September 14, 2022	☐ September 21, 2022	☐ September 28, 2022	
☐ October 5, 2022	☐ October 12, 2022	☐ October 19, 2022	☐ October 26, 2022	
☐ November 2, 2022	☐ November 9, 2022	☐ November 16, 2022	☐ November 23, 2022	☐ November 30, 2022
☐ December 7, 2022	☐ December 14, 2022	☐ December 21, 2022	☐ December 28, 2022	
☐ January 4, 2023	☐ January 11, 2023	☐ January 18, 2023	☐ January 25, 2023	
☐ February 1, 2023	☐ February 8, 2023	☐ February 15, 2023	☐ February 22, 2023	
☐ March 1, 2023	☐ March 8, 2023	☐ March 15, 2023	☐ March 22, 2023	☐ March 29, 2023
☐ April 5, 2023	☐ April 12, 2023	☐ April 19, 2023	☐ April 26, 2023	
☐ May 3, 2023	☐ May 10, 2023	☐ May 17, 2023	☐ May 24, 2023	☐ May 31, 2023
☐ June 7, 2023	☐ June 14, 2023	☐ June 21, 2023	☐ June 28, 2023	

Requirements for temperature log documentation and submission include:

- Document current, maximum, and minimum temperatures **twice daily** including the date, time, and recorder's initials. Clear your digital thermometer's memory after each temperature recording.
- Record your pharmacy's name and holding point code on each page of the temperature log.
- Use only blue or black ink. Do not use white-out or write over any temperature recordings.
- Submissions **must include** temperature recordings for each day that your pharmacy is operating, from previous Wednesday to current Wednesday. Use a strikethrough to indicate any days that your pharmacy is closed for business.

Month: Nov 2022 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	5:04 PM	9:11 AM	5:07 PM	9:16 AM	5:10 PM	9:03 AM	5:10 PM	10:00 AM	5:10 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	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB

UIIP Implementation Documents for Health Care Providers from the Ministry of Health

In the links below, you will find the following UIIP implementation documents released by the Ministry of Health to provide further information regarding available flu vaccine products, temperature log submission requirements, as well as useful Q&A documents pertaining to a variety of age groups. Links to these documents can also be found on York Region's [Vaccination for HealthCare Professionals webpage](#).

- [UIIP – Chief Medical Officer of Health Memo to Health Care Providers](#)
- [Health Care Provider Q&As Information for the 2022-2023 Influenza Season](#)
- [Health Care Provider Q&As Information for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age](#)
- [Health Care Provider Q&As Information for Individuals ≥ 65 years of age](#)
- [Pharmacy Temperature Log Submission Requirements 2022/2023](#)

Which Influenza vaccine should adults 65 years and older receive?

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.**

For individual-level decision making, [NACI](#) states that when available, high-dose should be used over standard dose inactivated influenza vaccine, given the burden of influenza A(H3N2) disease and the good evidence of better protection compared to standard dose in adults 65 years of age and older.

However, [NACI](#) states that in the absence of a specific product any of the available age appropriate influenza vaccines should be used. There is **no preferential recommendation** for the use of QIV-HD versus TIV-adj vaccine for this age group.

To date, no studies have directly compared QIV-HD and TIV-adj formulations or TIV-adj and QIV formulations. There is good evidence of QIV-HD providing better protection compared to QIV standard dose.

In considering use of TIV-adj and QIV standard dose, given the increased burden of disease associated with influenza A(H3N2) in older adults, better protection against influenza A(H3N2) afforded by the TIV-adj may be more important, especially in those with multiple co-morbid conditions and compromised health status.

No studies have been conducted that have assessed the **co-administration of Shingrix®** with adjuvanted or high-dose influenza vaccines. With Fludac®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact when Shingrix® is co-administered.

For more information, please refer to the following:

- [Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2022-2023](#)
- Public Health Ontario's *Influenza Vaccines for the 2022-2023 Influenza Season* available on PHO's [Influenza \(flu\) webpage](#)

Who is considered high risk for influenza?

As per [NACI](#), individuals in the following four groups are considered high risk for flu complications and/or transmission and are particularly recommended to receive the flu vaccine. Individuals included in Group 1 should be immunized against the flu as early as possible.

1. Individuals at high risk of flu-related complications or who are more likely to require hospitalization:

- All pregnant women
- People who are residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities
- People ≥ 65 years of age
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age
- Indigenous peoples
- Adults or children 6 months of age and over with chronic health conditions as follows:
 - Cardiac or pulmonary disorders
 - Diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease
 - Cancer
 - Conditions or medication which compromise the immune system (due to underlying disease, therapy or both)
 - Renal disease
 - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy

- Neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions
- Morbid obesity (body mass index of ≥ 40)
- Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods

2. Individuals capable of transmitting the flu to those listed in Group 1 and/or to infants under 6 months of age:

- Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings
- Household contacts (adults and children) of individuals at high risk of flu related complications
- Persons who provide care to children ≤ 4 years of age
- Members of a household expecting a newborn during the flu season
- Those who provide services within a closed or relatively closed setting to persons at high risk (e.g., crew on a ship)

3. People who provide essential community services

4. Poultry industry workers

Prioritization of Influenza immunization

Flu immunization should be prioritized as follows:

Mid- to late-October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals at high-risk for flu related complications or hospitalization (group 1) • Health care providers
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General population (including groups 2, 3 and 4)

Contact York Region Public Health

For more information, contact the Vaccine Inventory program via telephone at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033** or e-mail to vaccineinventory@york.ca.

UIIP and Influenza-Related Resources

York Region Public Health Vaccination for Healthcare Professionals page: york.ca/vaccineinventory

For updates on UIIP specific to York Region health care professionals.

Ministry of Health 2022/2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP):

For [information](#) on the UIIP for the 2022/2023 UIIP season

[Public Health Ontario's Influenza \(flu\) webpage](#)