

2026-2027 UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (UIIP) & 2026-2027 COVID VACCINE PROGRAM

FOR YORK REGION UIIP-PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES as of September 29, 2026

The [Universal Influenza Immunization Program](#) (UIIP) and the [COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#) offer free influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to individuals aged six (6) months and older who live, work, or attend school in Ontario.

The publicly funded influenza vaccines include:

1. Trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) for those $\geq$ six (6) months of age
2. High-dose trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV-HD) for those $\geq$ 65 years of age only
3. Adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV-adj) for those $\geq$ 65 years of age only

The publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines include:

1. Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines for those $\geq$ six (6) months of age
2. Protein subunit vaccine for those $\geq$ 12 years of age

Note: Injection-trained pharmacy professionals can administer publicly funded influenza vaccines to individuals 2 years of age and older and COVID-19 vaccines to individuals six (6) months of age and older.

Immunization Priority

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to eligible individuals in high-risk and priority groups as soon as they become available at your pharmacy. Refer to the Health Care Provider Fact Sheets for the complete list of individuals in high-risk and priority groups. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines may be offered to the general population starting October 26, 2026.

Do not schedule immunization appointments until vaccine supplies have been received to avoid potential issues related to supply shortages, processing delays, or delivery disruptions. Large-scale community vaccination clinics for the general population should be planned for November to ensure there is an adequate vaccine supply.

Vaccine Co-Administration

Whenever possible and appropriate, consider the co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to maximize uptake and protection. Influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time, or at any time before or after other vaccines. If multiple injections are given during the same visit, separate limbs should be used if possible.

Vaccine Distribution to Pharmacies

- Pharmacies must order publicly funded influenza and COVID-19 vaccines from Ministry of Health-assigned distributors (i.e., SDM, McKesson)
- First shipments of COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be delivered to pharmacies anytime between September 28 and October 9
- First shipments of influenza vaccines are expected to be delivered to pharmacies anytime between October 13 and October 26
- Pharmacies can begin to reorder influenza and COVID-19 vaccines from assigned distributors starting October 26

Refer to your pharmacy's Welcome E-mail from the Ministry of Health for information on assigned distributors, the number of doses that will be received in the first vaccine shipment, order limits, and information related to vaccine supply.

Adverse Storage Conditions (ASC)

If any publicly funded vaccines are exposed to temperatures **below +2.0°C and/or above +8.0°C** at any time (e.g., during transport, while stored in the refrigerator), **immediately report to YRPH at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065** (24/7, including statutory holidays). Do not administer or discard the exposed vaccines until YRPH has completed an ASC investigation and vaccine viability assessment.

Mandatory Weekly Temperature Log Submissions to YRPH

Pharmacies must submit vaccine refrigerator temperature logs to YRPH every Wednesday before 11:59 p.m. EST.

E-mail: coldchain@york.ca

(Recommended and preferred method as it will provide receipt confirmation)

Fax: 905-830-0578

(No receipt confirmation)

YRPH reviews all pharmacy temperature log submissions to ensure that vaccine refrigerators storing publicly funded vaccines are maintained between +2.0°C and +8.0°C. **Failure to submit weekly temperature logs on the due date or submitting incomplete temperature documentation will result in suspension of vaccine ordering for a minimum of seven (7) days.**

Submissions must include temperature recordings for each day the pharmacy operates (from the previous Wednesday to the current Wednesday) and must follow the requirements below:

- Document temperatures exactly as shown on the thermometer's display screen, to one digit after the decimal (i.e., to the tenth decimal place)
- Document the current, maximum, and minimum temperatures twice daily. Include the date, time, and recorder's initials.
- Clear your digital thermometer's memory after each temperature recording

- Use only blue or black ink. Do not use white-out or write over any temperature recordings
- Ensure that the pharmacy's name and holding point code (Example: YOR_NW_01234) are clearly indicated on your temperature log
- Use a strikethrough to indicate the days the pharmacy is closed, if applicable

Vaccine Administration in Pharmacies

- Only doses of publicly funded vaccines that were ordered for and received by the pharmacy can be administered by the pharmacy's injection-trained professionals
- Publicly funded vaccines must not be shared or transferred between other healthcare providers or pharmacies, including other pharmacy sites or branches. Injection-trained pharmacy professionals must not administer publicly funded vaccines that were ordered or received by another organization, pharmacy site, or branch
- COVID-19 vaccinations must be recorded in Panorama Guided Workflow (PGW) within seven (7) days of administration

Vaccine Administration Outside of Pharmacies

- Pharmacists may administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to individuals outside the pharmacy but within the boundaries of their local public health unit, excluding hospital in-patients. The [Public Health Unit Locator Tool](#) can be used to identify addresses within the borders of York Region
- Pharmacists who will be administering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, congregate care settings, other vulnerable population facilities or homebound clients must bring their own supply of vaccines
- COVID-19 vaccinations must be recorded in PGW within seven (7) days of administration
- While administering vaccines outside of the pharmacy, ensure vaccines are transported and stored in a Ministry-approved cooler with the appropriate packing materials and [packing configuration](#) to maintain temperatures within +2.0°C and +8.0°C for the duration of the clinic

Multi-Dose Vial Formats

The majority of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are available in multi-dose vial format. Ensure the use of [best practice standards](#) to maximize the use of an entire multi-dose vial and prevent vaccine-related medication errors.

- Label the multi-dose vial with the date and time it was first punctured
- Any doses remaining in a punctured multi-dose vial must be stored in the refrigerator and discarded within the post-puncture shelf life. **Refer to the product leaflet/monograph for specific post-puncture shelf life of each multi-dose vial product**

Vaccine Wastage

The Ministry of Health and YRPH are committed to minimizing vaccine wastage. Pharmacies must make every effort to reduce vaccine wastage by following the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

To minimize vaccine wastage, order small quantities of vaccines on an as-needed basis and consider available storage space in your YRPH-inspected vaccine refrigerator.

In an effort to reduce vaccine wastage during the UIIP and COVID-19 campaigns, a pharmacy will be suspended from ordering additional vaccines if doses remaining at the pharmacy exceed the stipulated threshold set by the Ministry. Refer to the Welcome E-mail from the Ministry for more details including your pharmacies' influenza and COVID vaccine administration and wastage data from the 2025-2026 campaigns.

Wasted COVID-19 vaccine doses should be adjusted out from your PGW inventory in a timely manner to ensure inventory records remain accurate and reflect current stock levels.

Resources

- York Region Public Health's Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals [webpage](#)
- Ministry of Health's vaccine program websites:
 - [2026-2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program](#)
 - [2026-2027 Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#)
 - [Public Health Ontario's Panorama Guided Workflow \(PGW\) Resources](#)

Attachments

- Chief Medical Officer of Health's Letter to Health Care Providers re: Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Program and Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) 2026-2027
- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age
- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals ≥ 65 years of age
- Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: 2026-2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program

Contact Us

For more information, visit our website at York.ca/VaccineInventory, or contact York Region's Vaccine Inventory Program by phone at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033, or by e-mail at vaccineinventory@york.ca.

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