

# Influenza Vaccine Now Available for High-Risk Individuals

Update on the 2019-20 UIIP for York Region health care providers as of October 7, 2019

## Second Influenza Season Communication

York Region Public Health (YRPH) has received the first shipment of influenza vaccine for the 2019/2020 influenza season and is now accepting influenza vaccine orders **for high-risk individuals only** from your practice. This is a follow-up message to our first influenza season communication sent on September 27.

### How to Order Influenza Vaccines for High-Risk Individuals

Use the **Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form** to request flu vaccines from YRPH. A copy of the form follows this message, or it can be found at [york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory). **Please ensure that all mandatory fields are completed and temperature logs submitted to prevent delays in processing your order.**

Influenza vaccines should only be ordered for **high-risk individuals** at this time. Flu vaccines for the general population (not at high risk) are expected to be available in late October/early November. Please schedule flu shot clinics/appointments for high-risk individuals after you have received your order.

**Individuals in the following three groups are considered high risk for influenza complications and/or transmission. Order influenza vaccines only for these individuals at this time:**

**1. Individuals at high risk of influenza-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 to 59 months 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 taking medication which compromise the immune system (due to underlying disease, therapy or both); renal disease; anemia or hemoglobinopathy; neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions; morbid obesity (body mass index of ≥ 40); or children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods

**2. Individuals capable of transmitting influenza to those listed in #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 influenza related complications
- Persons who provide care to children ≤ 59 months of age
- Those who provide services within a closed or relatively closed setting to persons at high risk (e.g., crew on a ship)

**3. Swine and poultry industry workers.**

### Contact York Region Public Health

For more information, contact the Vaccine Inventory program via phone at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033** or via email at [vaccineinventory@york.ca](mailto:vaccineinventory@york.ca).

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

520 Cane Parkway  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8T5  
1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033  
[york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory)



## Reminder: Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Available for 2019-20

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV) (for all adults and for children per indicated ages)			High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (HD-TIV) (for individuals 65+ years)
Vaccine Product	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Afluria® Tetra	Fluzone® High-Dose
Age indication	≥6 months	≥6 months	≥5 years	≥65 years
Format	Multi-dose vial	Multidose vial Pre-filled syringe	Pre-filled syringe	Pre-filled syringe
Influenza Strains covered	Two Influenza A Strains Two Influenza B Strains			Two Influenza A Strains One Influenza B Strain
Most common allergens	Egg protein*, Thimerosal	<u>Multidose vial:</u> Egg protein*, Thimerosal <u>Prefilled syringe:</u> Egg protein*	Egg protein*, Neomycin, Polymyxin B	Egg protein*

\*The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any appropriate product, including high-dose TIV.

### NOTES:

- **Fluzone® High-Dose** will be available through primary care providers, participating retirement homes, long-term care homes and hospitals. Fluzone® High-Dose will not be available through the publicly funded program at pharmacies.
- **Flumist® QIV**, the influenza vaccine administered through nasal spray, will **not** be available in Canada for the 2019-20 flu season.
- Children 6 months to less than 9 years of age receiving seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time should be given two doses of influenza vaccine with a minimum interval of four weeks between doses. Children who have received influenza vaccine in previous years should receive one dose per flu season.

### Considerations for Choosing Between HD-TIV and QIV for Individuals Aged 65 and Older

- **Adults aged 65 years and older can receive either high-dose TIV or QIV.** NACI has not identified a preferential recommendation between HD-TIV and QIV as there have not been direct comparisons between the two vaccines. The table below provides additional information for your consideration when choosing the right flu vaccine product for your patient.
- Don't delay flu vaccination for those aged 65 and older to wait for a particular flu vaccine product; **the most important thing is to get vaccinated.** Once your patient has been vaccinated with either HD-TIV or QIV, do not offer a second vaccination with the other flu vaccine product.

Strain	Considerations
Influenza A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HD-TIV provides better protection against standard dose TIV for the H3N2 strain.</li> <li>• The H3N2 strain is the same in both the standard dose TIV and QIV vaccines.</li> <li>• For adults aged 65 years of age and older, the burden of H3N2 is higher compared to H1N1 and influenza B. Influenza seasons with H3N2 circulation result in more outbreaks, hospitalizations and deaths – most commonly occurring among older adults.</li> <li>• In Ontario, over eight influenza seasons, 75.8% of strains isolated were influenza A and only 24.0% were influenza B for individuals aged 65 or older. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approximately 46% of the influenza A strains among these adults aged 65+ were further subtyped – 92.4% of these were A(H3N2) and only 7.6% were A(H1N1).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Influenza B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HD-TIV contains one less influenza B strain compared to QIV; however, influenza B typically occurs less frequently in adults 65 years of age and older compared to influenza A.</li> <li>• HD-TIV may also afford some cross-protection against the B lineage not included in that vaccine.</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HD-TIV and QIV are expected to have a generally similar safety profile</li> <li>• Local reactions and systemic adverse events occur somewhat more frequently with HD-TIV compared to standard dose TIV. But these are generally mild and resolved within three days.</li> </ul>

For additional information on influenza vaccines for the 2019/20 season, including additional information on the above table see: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/fact-sheet-influenza-vaccine-2019-2020.pdf?la=en>