

# Preparations Underway for the 2019-20 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

## Update on the 2019-20 UIIP for York Region health care providers as of September 27, 2019 First Influenza Season Communication

Flu season is here and Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) is helping health care providers prepare. The flu shot is the best protection against getting the flu and is recommended for everyone six months of age and over without contraindications.

### Updates on flu vaccine stock - and available for ordering soon!

- York Region Public Health (YRPH) has **NOT** yet received supplies of influenza vaccine from the Ontario Government Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies Services (OGPMSS).
- Influenza vaccines for **high risk** individuals are expected to be received by YRPH and available to order the week of October 7. See page 4 for who is considered high risk.
- Flu vaccine availability for the general population (those not at high risk) is expected to start in late October/early November, after the Ministry of Health 2019-20 UIIP official launch.
- A follow-up message will be sent to York Region health care providers when flu vaccines are ready to order.
- YRPH distributes publicly-funded influenza vaccines to all health care providers in York Region except pharmacies, who receive influenza vaccines via Ministry-contracted third-party distributors.

Public health units receive vaccines from the OGPMSS on different schedules. This means neighbouring health units – and thus their health care providers – may receive influenza vaccines at different times despite their close proximity.

Once YRPH receives flu vaccines from OGPMSS, orders are received and processed by our Vaccine Inventory team as quickly as possible. Vaccine orders are then shipped to our various office locations where you will then be contacted to pick up your order.

YRPH's Vaccine Inventory team is standing by to receive, process, and start the distribution process as soon as flu vaccines are received from OGPMSS.

### Influenza's impact

Influenza is ranked among the top 10 leading causes of death among the Canadian population. In the 2018-19 influenza season, there were 48,818 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported nationally and more than 900 cases reported in York Region, with many more cases presumed unreported. Over 12,200 influenza-related hospitalizations occur on average in Canada each year.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

520 Cane Parkway  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8T5  
[york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory)



## Publicly funded influenza vaccines available for 2019-20

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

### Important notes about the available influenza vaccines:

- Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose are different products, but similar in name. Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products to ensure that the right vaccine is being administered to the right person.
- 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.
- Afluria® Tetra is only authorized for children 5 years of age and over and should not be used in younger children.
- 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.
- Note: The nasal spray influenza vaccine (Flumist® Quadrivalent) will not be available in Canada for the 2019-2020 influenza season.

## Comparing flu vaccines available for adults 65 years 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 below table outlines information health care providers can use to decide which type of flu vaccine (HD-TIV or QIV) to provide to adults aged 65 years and older. It is recommended not to delay flu vaccination for those aged 65+ to wait for a particular flu vaccine product; the most important thing is to get vaccinated.

|   | <b>High-dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (HD-TIV)</b>   | <b>Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)</b>  |
|---|---|--|
| Efficacy and effectiveness compared to standard dose trivalent vaccine (SD-TIV) | Superior protection compared with SD-TIV, particularly in influenza A dominant seasons  | Additional protection against the influenza B strain not contained in SD-TIV   |
|   | Insufficient head-to-head studies directly comparing efficacy and effectiveness of HD-TIV and QIV.  |  |
| Immunogenicity compared to SD-TIV   | Generally better immune response compared to SD-TIV   | Non-inferior immune response to the strains contained in SD-TIV with better immune response to the additional B strain |
| Contraindications   | Same contraindications as SD-TIV  |  |
| Safety profile compared to SD-TIV   | Higher rate of some systemic reactions than SD-TIV; most systemic reactions were mild and transient.<br>Serious adverse events were rare and similar in frequency to SD-TIV | Similar safety profile to SD-TIV   |

# Who is considered high risk for influenza?

Individuals in the following three groups are considered high risk for influenza complications and/or transmission and should be prioritized for early influenza immunization\*:

## 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  $\geq 65$  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  $\geq 40$ )
  - 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  $\leq 59$  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.

Source: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/#immunization>

## Contact York Region Public Health

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

## UIIP Resources

**York Region Public Health Vaccine Inventory:** [york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory) and **York Region Public Health, Health Professionals Page:** [york.ca/healthprofessionals](http://york.ca/healthprofessionals)

For updates on UIIP specific to York Region health care professionals

## Ministry of Health 2019/2020 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP):

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/>

For FAQs on influenza immunizations for the 2019/2020 UIIP season, immunizing individuals 6 months to 64 years and individuals  $\geq 65$  years.