



Vaccine Program  
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[www.hamilton.ca/flu](http://www.hamilton.ca/flu)

September 26, 2023

## **Universal Influenza Immunization Program 2023-2024**

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Dear Health Care Provider,

The Ministry of Health will be launching COVID-19 and influenza vaccination campaigns for the 2023/2024 respiratory illness season. These programs will help to reduce the risk of severe illness that could arise from COVID-19, and influenza this season. More information will be shared regarding the COVID-19 fall program at a later point.

For facilities that have confirmed their participation for the 2023/24 UIIP Program the distribution of your initial allotment is expected to begin in early October.

The estimated arrival date for the vaccine is during the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Order requests for additional flu vaccine can be placed starting the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>, with anticipated delivery during the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Please do not submit your flu vaccine orders prior to October 10<sup>th</sup> as it will not be processed.

The Ministry of Health is recommending that health care providers who plan to hold large-scale influenza clinics to wait until November when the provincial stock has been replenished to ensure you are able to order enough doses.

As a primary care provider, your initial allotment of the publicly funded vaccines is pre-determined by Public Health based on your previous year's usage. Additional orders will be filled based on the products and quantities that we have at any given time. We also aim for an equitable distribution to all health care providers placing orders.

For the 2023/24 UIIP Program you will receive approximately 50% of your QIV and 60% of your 65+ HD-TIV based on last years administration data.

If you would like to request your actuals for your initial allotment, please contact Hamilton Public Health at (905)546-2424 Ext. 2161. Please leave a message and we will have it returned in 1-2 business days.

The first delivery of vaccine should be targeted to **high priority groups**.

## High Priority Groups

### **People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization**

- Young children, 6 months to 4 years of age (especially those younger than two years of age);
- Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods;
- Adults 65 years of age and older;
- Individuals 6 months of age and older with the following underlying health conditions:
  - Cardiac or pulmonary disorders
  - Diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease
  - Cancer
  - Conditions or medication which compromise the immune system
  - Renal disease
  - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy
  - Neurologic or neurodevelopment 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
- Individuals of any age who are residents in long-term care home (LTCH) or other chronic care facilities;
- Pregnant women; and
- Individuals who are from a First Nation, Inuit or Métis community, and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit or Métis, and their household members.

### **Individuals capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk:**

- Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings;
- Household contacts of those at high risk; and
- Persons who provide childcare to children less than four years of age; and
- Members of a household expecting a newborn during the influenza season; and
- People who provide essential community services.

In addition, influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for individuals that work in the poultry industry.

## Publicly Funded Products

The products available this year are **Fluzone® High-Dose**, **FluLaval® Tetra**, **Fluzone® Quadrivalent**, and **Afluria® Tetra**. Vaccine allocation and distribution will be based on product availability. Please refer to the **Special Notes** section in the table below for information pertaining to the availability, allocation and ordering of some of these vaccines.

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine		
<b>UIIP Abbreviation</b>	QIV		
<b>NACI Abbreviation</b>	IIV4-SD		
<b>Vaccine Product</b>	<b>FluLaval® Tetra</b>	<b>Fluzone® Quadrivalent</b>	
<b>Manufacturer</b>	GSK	Sanofi Pasteur	
<b>Micrograms of HA</b>	15 µg	15 µg	
<b>Dosage</b>	0.5ml	0.5ml	
<b>Format</b>	Multidose vial	Multidose vial Prefilled Syringe	
<b>Route</b>	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	
<b>Age Indication</b>	≥6 Months	≥6 months	
<b>Most Common Allergens</b>	Egg Protein* Thimerosal	Multidose vial	Egg Protein* Thimerosal
		Prefilled Syringe	Egg Protein*
*The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates that egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccination and that that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product. See section IV of the Canadian Immunization Guide chapter on Influenza and statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2018-2019 for studies supporting the NACI recommendation for egg-allergic individuals ( <a href="http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec">www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec</a> ).			

In addition to the QIVs listed above the below vaccines are publicly funded for individuals 65 years of age and older in Ontario as part of the 2022/2023 UIIP.

	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine
<b>UIIP Abbreviation</b>	TIV-adj	QIV-HD
<b>NACI Abbreviation</b>	IIV3-Adj	IIV4-HD
<b>Vaccine Product</b>	Fluad®	Fluzone® High Dose Quadrivalent
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Seqirus	Sanofi Pasteur
<b>Micrograms of HA</b>	15 µg	60µg
<b>Dosage</b>	0.5ml	0.7ml
<b>Format</b>	Prefilled Syringe	Prefilled syringe
<b>Route</b>	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection
<b>Age Indication</b>	≥65 years	≥65 years
<b>Most Common Allergens</b>	Egg Protein* Kanamycin Neomycin	Egg Protein*

\*The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates that egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccination and that that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product. See section IV of the Canadian Immunization Guide chapter on Influenza and statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2018-2019 for studies supporting the NACI recommendation for egg-allergic individuals ([www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec) ).

**Legend:**

TIV – Trivalent inactivated vaccine

High-Dose TIV – High dose trivalent inactivated vaccine

QIV – Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine

**Special Notes:**

1. Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose are different products. Fluzone® High-Dose 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.
2. Publicly funded influenza vaccines must be administered by a regulated health professional who is authorized under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* to administered 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.
3. Publicly funded vaccine may be administered to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for the UIIP and without contraindications to the vaccine.
4. Trained pharmacists may only administer publicly funded influenza vaccine to individuals 2 years of age and older.

### Which influenza vaccines are individuals eligible to receive as part of the UIIP?

Age Group	QIV		QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine
6 months up to and including 64 years	✓	✓		
≥65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓

### What strains of influenza are covered by the 2023/2024 influenza vaccines?

For the northern hemisphere's 2023/2024 season, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the following strains be included in the influenza vaccines:

Influenza Strains	Egg-based QIVs (including Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent)	Egg-based TIVs (Fluad®)
A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;	NEW for 2023/2024	NEW for 2023/2024
A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;	✓	✓
B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus;	✓	✓
B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.	✓	

### Vaccine Administration of Intramuscular (IM) injections

According to the Canadian Immunization Guide appropriate vaccine administration is essential to the optimal safety and efficacy of vaccines. Vaccine administration practices are based on clinical trials that determine the dose, route and schedule for each vaccine. The following table outlines proper Vaccine Administration of IM injections.

Age and Weight of vaccine recipient	Recommended needle gauge	Recommended needle length
6 to 12 Months	22-25	7/8" – 1"
13 Months to 12 Years	22-25	5/8" – 1"

13 Years+	Individuals Weighing <130 lbs	22-25	5/8" – 1"
	Males weighing 130—260 lbs	22-25	1"
	Females weighing 130-200 lbs	22-25	1"
	Males weighing >260 lbs	22-25	1 ½"
	Females weighing >200 lbs	22-25	1 ½"
Refer to the Vaccine Administration Practices in the Canadian Immunization Guide for further information re: route site and technique for vaccine administration.			

### Vaccine Orders

After using the initial allocation of influenza vaccine, please use the standard vaccine order form to order additional influenza vaccine for the high priority groups identified above. Vaccines may be ordered for the general public once the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officially launches the UIIP in October (October 10, 2023).

### Resources

Please refer to the drug monographs and the NACI 2023-2024 Seasonal Influenza Statement for information on administration, product components, adverse events, recommendations, contraindications and precautions. The statement can be found at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2023-2024.html>

### Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

Health care professionals are reminded to report adverse events following immunization to the Medical Officer of Health within 7 days of recognizing the reportable event. Please use the Public Health Ontario AEFI form

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Vaccine-Safety.aspx>

Completed reports should be faxed to Public Health at 905-546-4078.

It is not necessary to report expected events such as injection site reactions and mild fever. Unexpected, severe and unusual adverse events should be reported promptly.

For more information about UIIP, please call 905-546-CITY (2489).

To download flu shot posters visit [www.hamilton.ca/flu](http://www.hamilton.ca/flu).

