

Influenza Update #4: January 28, 2019

## Influenza vaccine supply update for Toronto

The demand for influenza vaccines has been high this season. This year, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) purchased 4.57 million doses of vaccine, up from 4.4 million, to meet the early and increased demand. Historically, approximately 96% of influenza doses in Ontario are administered by the third week in January.

### Vaccine Inventory

**Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV) is no longer available for order at the Ontario Government Pharmacy (OGP).** Orders entered after January 23<sup>rd</sup> will not be filled. Pharmacies and primary care providers in the province still have over 300,000 doses of vaccines in their fridges. If your office does not have QIV vaccine, patients can call nearby pharmacies for availability. For children, under 5 years of age, vaccine may be available at other health care clinics. Toronto Public Health does not have an inventory of QIV vaccine available at providers' offices.

**High-dose Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (TIV) is still available for adults 65 years and older.** Quadrivalent-Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (Q-LAIV - nasal spray) remains out of stock.

### Influenza Activity in Toronto

Influenza cases in Toronto are higher than the previous 5-year average. As of January 19, there have been 1,206 laboratory cases reported, higher than the previous 5-season mean of 1,114 cases. Currently, influenza A strains are the predominant circulating type, especially the H1N1 strain. Typically, influenza B can begin to circulate in late winter or early spring. To date, in Canada, [interim vaccine effectiveness estimates are good at 72%](#) and good protection is seen in all age groups.

More information is also available in TPH's [Weekly Influenza Bulletin](#).

Call TPH at 416-338-2030 to report an adverse event following immunization.