

UIIP UPDATE #2

Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines by Age Cohort

Age cohort	Vaccine Product	Vaccine Type	Recommended Vaccine
≥ 6 months+	FluLaval Tetra, Fluzone® Quad	egg-based QIV	No preferential vaccine. Children under nine years of age, without previous flu vaccination, need a second dose, given 4 weeks after the first dose.
≥ 9 years+	Flucelvax® Quad*	cell-based QIV	
≥ 65 years+	Fluzone® High-Dose	high-dose TIV	Preferential vaccine. If HD-TIV is not available, don't delay & give standard QIV (egg/cell-based)

Abbreviations: **QIV**: quadrivalent inactivated vaccines; **HD-TIV**: high-dose trivalent inactivated vaccine
Pharmacists can provide flu vaccination to clients, ages 5 years and older.

*New this season, **Flucelvax® Quad** is a mammalian cell culture-based inactivated, influenza vaccine. It is considered effective, immunogenic, and safe in adults and children ≥9 years of age, and has a comparable immunogenicity and safety profile to traditional egg-based influenza vaccines already licensed in Canada. Flucelvax® Quad can be given to pregnant women. It will be provided to pharmacies only, at the start of the season. This may change later on in the season.

High-dose TIV is the preferential vaccine for adults 65 years and older, without contraindication, for the following reasons:

- older adults have a higher burden of illness from influenza A(H3N2) and the high-dose vaccine provides a better effectiveness against A(H3N2) than the standard dose vaccine
- stronger protection against the A(H3N2) strain in the vaccine is more beneficial for older adults compared to getting two B-strains in a QIV vaccine
- there may also be some cross protection against B lineages in the TIV vaccine, so high-dose TIV may afford some protection against the B lineage not included in that vaccine
- **Don't delay an opportunity to vaccinate** – if high dose TIV is not available, provide the standard dose QIV to older adults

Give QIV for pregnant clients

Pregnant clients can receive any QIV vaccine as long as there are no contraindications. NACI recommends inactivated influenza vaccine in every pregnancy due to increased risk for severe illness from the flu.

Toronto Public Health guidance for planning influenza vaccine clinics during COVID-19 is now available on [our website](#).

Flu Vaccine for Toronto Providers

Toronto providers, you will receive your first auto-shipment of flu vaccines between October 5 and 19. Once you have received your first shipment, you may place orders for additional flu vaccine, after October 19th for delivery on the week of October 26th. Please do not submit your second order before Oct 19th as you will be asked to re-submit your order again.

Vaccine will be shipped on your regular scheduled delivery day. It takes OGPMSS approximately 2 weeks to distribute vaccine orders across Toronto to all participating healthcare providers. If you did not receive the vaccine this week, it will arrive next week.

Plan larger clinics for after the week of October 26, 2020.

Toronto providers can pick up their flu vaccine orders at OGPMSS, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

- Ensure your vaccine order is submitted before the weekly cutoff date
- Schedule an appointment with OGPMSS, at least two days before pick-up
- Schedule your pick-up at least one day before your regular delivery date
- Pick-up times are between 10 am to 12 noon; or 1 pm to 3 pm
- You must have your cooler and requisition number ready for pick-up
- Follow COVID-19 guidelines, screening and wear a mask

For more information on vaccine orders or pick-up, please call 416-327-0837 or email OGPMSS@ontario.ca.

References:

National Advisory Committee on Immunization – [Influenza Statements](#)

Public Health Ontario – [Influenza \(flu\)](#)

Toronto Public Health Resources

- [Influenza Information for Health Care Providers](#)
- [Guidance: Planning for Influenza Vaccine During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Flu vaccine fact sheet](#) for patients. [Français](#)
- Sample flu consent form and medical directive are available upon request.
- Email us at PublicHealth@toronto.ca