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**Key Messages:**

- Influenza vaccine is now available to order for the high priority population.
- A temporary hold on routine vaccine orders will be in effect to expedite influenza, COVID-19 and RSV distribution from October 11 to October 18.
- Register for an upcoming PHO Rounds on the 2024/25 respiratory season.
- PHO is hosting a webinar series for the 2024-25 respiratory season.
- Information associated to the COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon.

- Diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease,
- Cancer,
- Conditions or medication which compromise the immune system,
- Renal disease,
- Anemia or hemoglobinopathy,
- Neurologic or neurodevelopmental conditions,
- Morbid obesity (body mass index of >40),
- Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods.

**Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)**

Influenza vaccine is now **available to order for the high-priority population** with expected distribution to community health care providers beginning in October. Availability of the vaccine for the general population will begin October 28, 2024.

**High priority population**

Influenza vaccines are to be prioritized and should be offered as soon as the vaccine is available to health care workers, first responders, individuals with significant exposure to birds or mammals and to the following individuals at a higher risk for severe health outcomes or are more likely to require hospitalization:

- Residents and staff of congregate living settings (e.g., chronic care facilities, retirement homes),
- People 65 years of age and over,
- All pregnant individuals,
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age,
- Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities,
- Members of racialized and other equity deserving communities.
- Individuals 6 months of age and older with the following underlying health conditions:
  - Cardiac or pulmonary disorders,

**Updated: National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) – Influenza recommendation**

NACI now recommends using any age-appropriate quadrivalent (QIV) or trivalent (TIV) influenza vaccine for individuals 6 months and older. QIV was previously preferred for children to protect against both influenza B lineages. However, the B/Yamagata lineage viruses have not been detected globally since March 2020 and will be excluded from influenza vaccine formulation in future influenza seasons.

**NOTE:** For the 2024/2025 influenza season in Ontario, vaccine availability remains unchanged and only QIV formulations is being supplied for the general population between ages 6 months to 64 years.

Refer to [Statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024–2025](#) for more information.

**Product eligibility by age group**

Age Group	QIV	QIV-HD	TIV-adj
	Flulaval Tetra Fluzone®Quad Flucelvax®Quad	Fluzone® HD Quad	Fluad®
6 months-64 years	✓	Not applicable	
65 years and over	✓	✓	✓

*QIV = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine*  
*QIV-HD = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine - High-dose*  
*TIV-adj = Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine – adjuvanted*

## Product selection for adults 65 years of age and over

The QIV-HD and TIV-adj vaccines should be offered, when available, over QIV-standard dose (SD) influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older. However, the QIV-SD, QIV-HD and TIV-adj all provide effective protection against influenza, and the key priority for older adults is to get vaccinated, regardless of which product is available. **Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular influenza product.**

### Doses by age

Age	No. of Doses Required
6 months to 8 years No previous doses	2 doses* at least 4 weeks apart
6 months to 8 years Previously received at least 1 dose	1 dose
9 years and older	1 dose

*\*It is NOT necessary to use the same vaccine product for both doses.*

### General influenza vaccine reminders

- Any of the QIV-SD products can be administered to pregnant individuals.
- Any of the influenza vaccines can be administered to egg allergic individuals.
- Patients should only receive **one dose** of influenza vaccine per season (exception: children 6 months to 8 years of age getting the vaccine for the first time).
- Multidose vials can be used for 28 days after they have been punctured.

**Primary care and pediatric providers are strongly encouraged to order and administer influenza vaccines to eligible infants, young children and adults.**

Peel Public Health will offer influenza and COVID-19 vaccine clinics during the 2024/25 respiratory illness season for infants and children 6 months to younger than 5 years. More information will be available shortly on the Peel Region [website](#).

## Ordering influenza vaccine

Influenza vaccine orders for the high-priority population can be [ordered](#) now. Influenza vaccine orders may take approximately 3 to 4 weeks for processing.

**NOTE:** A temporary hold on routine vaccine orders will be in effect to expedite influenza, COVID-19 and RSV distribution from October 11 (starting at 4:30pm) to October 18 (inclusive).

### Resources

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

- [2024/2025 UIIP Additional resources and factsheets](#)

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

- [Statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2024–2025](#)

Ministry of Health (publicly funded programs)

- [Vaccine resources for professionals](#)

### Upcoming Public Health Ontario (PHO) webinars

Public Health Ontario (PHO) will be hosting a two-part PHO Rounds series on the 2024-25 respiratory season.

Date	Topics	Registration
Oct. 3 10:30-12:00	Testing & Surveillance	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Oct. 10 11:00-12:00	Influenza, COVID-19, RSV Immunizations	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>

*\* PHO Rounds are Royal College-accredited CME activities.*

### COVID-19 vaccine

Information associated to the COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon.