

**Program/Service Information Report**  
**Influenza and COVID Vaccinations**  
**January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

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**To:** Chair and Members of the Board of Health

**Meeting Date:** April 5, 2023

**Report No.:** BH.01.APR0523.C07

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## Key Points

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- During the 2022/2023 Flu season a total of 59,529 doses influenza vaccine were administered in Wellington Dufferin Guelph (WDG) by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) and local pharmacies.
- Local hospitals and primary care providers also provided the influenza vaccine however, their numbers are harder to evaluate as there is no centralized data collection on these vaccines. WDGPH distributed 3,358 doses to hospitals and 30,079 doses to primary care of influenza vaccine.
- The represents an increased in uptake of influenza vaccine from previous years.
- Immunizations for COVID-19 and influenza vaccine was offered simultaneously at all public health led clinics starting October 5, 2022.

## Program Requirements

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### Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance. If not in compliance, provide additional information about the variance and how it will be addressed.

# Highlights

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## Influenza

Annually the influenza vaccination campaign is promoted under the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) to all individuals aged 6 months and older in the WDG area. Although the burden of influenza can vary from year to year, it is estimated that in Canada there are an average of 12,200 hospitalizations related to influenza and approximately 3,500 deaths attributable to influenza annually.<sup>1</sup>

Annual vaccination is required because the body's immune response to influenza vaccination is transient and may not persist beyond a year.<sup>1</sup> The National Advisory Committee on immunization (NACI) provides the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) with recommendations for annual influenza vaccinations based on risks and experiences from other parts of the world ahead of Canada in the flu season.<sup>1</sup> The influenza vaccine is offered through pharmacies, public health units, primary care providers, and facilities such as Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) and hospitals. The goal of the influenza program is to reduce overall burden on the health care system caused by influenza, including death.<sup>2</sup>

Individuals that are at greatest risk in the influenza season are

- adults and children with chronic health conditions;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities;
- adults 65 years of age and older;
- children 0–59 months of age;
- pregnant women; and
- Indigenous peoples.<sup>3</sup>

Publicly funded vaccines provided for the 2022/2023 UIIP include:

- Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV) for  $\geq 6$  months of age;
- High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD) for  $\geq 65$  years only; and
- Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj) for  $\geq 65$  years only.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1: Influenza Vaccine Administration**

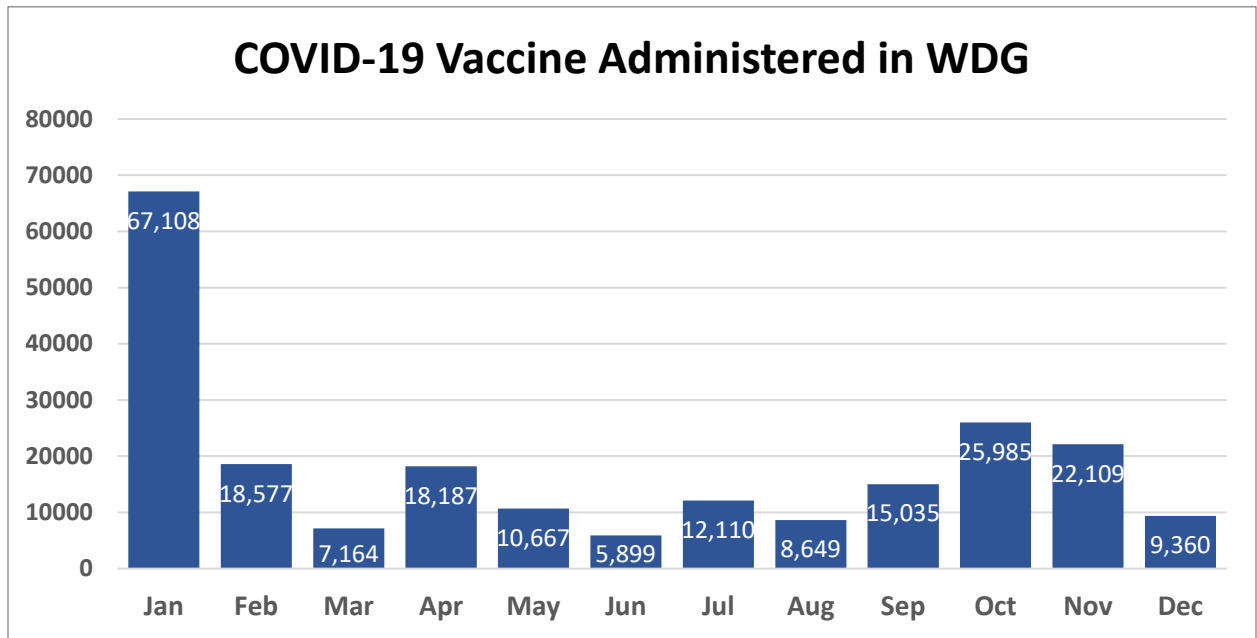
Provider	Influenza doses 2021-2022	Influenza doses 2022-2023
Pharmacies	42, 895	47, 804
Public Health	7, 240	11, 725
Total	50, 135	59, 529

During the 2022/2023 season, a total of 59,526 doses were administered in WDG by public health staff and local pharmacies an increase of almost 19% of the previous year. Additional doses were administered by primary care and local hospitals; however, these vaccination numbers are not currently collected, just the amount of vaccine distributed to these providers. In WDG, primary care received 30,079 doses of the influenza vaccine and hospitals received 3,358 doses. In November 2022, Canada was experiencing a 2022-2023 seasonal influenza epidemic with activity above expected levels typical of that time of year which may have attributed to increased vaccination for influenza.<sup>3</sup>

## COVID-19 Vaccines

The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be very effective at preventing severe disease, including hospitalization and death due to COVID-19.<sup>4</sup> Two vaccine manufacturers have messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccines authorized for use in Canada, individuals 6 months of age and older (Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty and Moderna Spikevax).<sup>4</sup> Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are currently authorized as booster doses and were introduced in September 2022. Moderna and Pfizer contains the BA.1 and BA.4/5 of the Omicron sub lineages.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2: COVID-19 vaccine administration by month for 2022**



The Total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in 2022 was 220,850 in Wellington Dufferin Guelph.

### **COVID Vaccination Milestones for 2022**

#### January 2022

- Primary series of COVID vaccines to individuals ages 5-11 years old (began in late Nov 2021 with Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine)
- booster doses to individuals over the age of 18; and
- second booster dose to individuals living in LTCH and Retirement Homes (RH).

#### February 2022

- Moderna Spikevax was approved for administration for children 6-11 years of age.

#### April 2022

- NACI recommended a second booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines for adolescents 12-17 years of age in Canada.

#### July 2022

- COVID-19 vaccines for 6months-5 years old for Moderna as 2 dose primary series was introduced.

## August 2022

- NACI recommended the first booster dose of Pfizer to children 5-11 years old.

## September 2022

- The fall booster campaign began with Moderna BA.1 bivalent omicron containing booster vaccine that was authorized for administration for individuals 18+ starting with high risk and vulnerable populations.

## October 2022

- Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer Comirnaty BA.4/5 Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose in individuals  $\geq 12$  years of age.
- The Pfizer Comirnaty BA.4/5 Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is the second bivalent Omicron-containing mRNA COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use in Canada.

## December 2022

- The Pfizer bivalent vaccine is authorized as a booster dose for children 5-11 years old.

**Table 3: COVID-19 vaccine doses administered by profession in 2022**

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Doses</u>
Pharmacist	90668
Registered Nurse	84418
Physician	16500
Registered Practical Nurse	15907
Nurse Practitioner	4185
Paramedic Practitioner	2321
Pharmacy Technician	2235
Pharmacy Student	1038
Registered Midwife	755
Other	2826
Total	220853

**Table 4: Vaccine doses administered by region.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Bivalent</b>	<b>Monovalent</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Wellington</b>	14, 613	35, 455	50086
<b>Dufferin</b>	12, 458	31, 474	43932
<b>Guelph</b>	38, 665	87, 946	126832
<b>Total</b>	65, 736	154, 875	220851

WDH promotes/supports influenza and COVID-19 immunizations by:

- Distributing vaccine products to local healthcare providers and facilities.
- Monitoring facilities that stored COVID vaccine to ensure cold chain requirements are being met.
- Providing influenza and COVID-19 vaccination administration at WDGPH led clinics across the WDG communities.
- Outreach and mobile clinics in WDG offering influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccinations in an effort to increase access and reduce barriers in the most rural areas of the community.
- Emailed all eligible individuals to encourage them to get their bivalent booster dose.
- Promoted the importance of influenza and COVID vaccinations through social media platforms, physicians' advisories, advertisements in local newspapers, and on the WDGPH website

### **Highlights for COVID Vaccinations in 2022**

- WDGPH remains in the top 5 health units for COVID vaccination rates for the bivalent vaccine in those over the age of 70 year.
- WDGPH led the province initially with the bivalent booster in Sept 2022.
- WDGPH utilized the supports of primary care providers to deliver the primary series of COVID vaccine to individuals aged 5- 11 (Nov 2021) and individuals 6

months- 4 years (Aug 2022). This was a unique and efficient way to get the vaccine to the targeted population in a timely manner.

- WDGPH utilized veterinary professionals in early 2022 during surges to ensure immunizations were occurring as quickly as possible.
- WDGPH communications team sent out emails to clients in the community regarding that it had been more than 6 months since their last covid vaccine and information on how to book their vaccine.
- WDGPH continues to provide COVID vaccination to homebound clients.
- WDGPH provided vaccinations through mobile and outreach clinics i.e. libraries, arenas, community centres.

WDGPH was able to offer both COVID-19 and influenza vaccines at the same visit, resulting in an increased uptake of vaccinations as well as client satisfaction. WDG continues to prioritize accessibility and health equity for COVID-19 and influenza vaccination.

## Related Reports

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BH.01.FEB0222.R02 – Immunization Coverage for School-Based Immunization Programs

BH.01.APR0622.R07 – Vaccination Clinic Update

BH.01.SEP0722.R16 – Vaccine Wastage

## References

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1. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Summary statement. Recommendation on repeated seasonal influenza vaccination. [Internet] 2023 February 01. [cited 2023 March 9]. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/mr7ccjv9>
2. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. 2022/2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program. [Internet]. September 22, 2022. [cited 2023 March 9] Available from: <https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/>
3. National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Canadian immunization guide chapter on the influenza and statement on seasonal influenza vaccine for 2022/2023. [Internet]. 2022 June 08. [cited 2023 March 9] Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html>

4. COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide. [Internet] December 22, 2022.[cited 2023 March 9]. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8dzt2d>
  
5. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Board of Health. BOH report - BH.01.APR0319.C07 Universal Influenza Immunization Program, September 15 2018 – March 15 2019. [Internet]. 2019 April 3. [Cited 2023 March 9]. Available from: <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/board-health/board-health-meetings/april-3-2019-agenda/bh01apr0319c07-universal-influenza>