

Program/Service Information Report

Universal Influenza Immunization Program including Hospital and Long-Term Care Staff Immunization Rates

October 7, 2019 – February 14, 2020

To:	Board of Health
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Report No.:	BH.01.MAR0420.C06
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Key Points

- Approximately 3,500 deaths are related to influenza on average each year in Canada.
- Influenza related illness negatively impacts the healthcare system overall.
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) saw an increase from last year in total influenza vaccine distribution by 4,654 doses.
- During the 2019/2020 season, a total of 94,081 doses of influenza vaccine were distributed in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph (WDG).
- Influenza vaccine uptake for community healthcare workers remains low, impacting the ability to prevent and control facility outbreaks.

Strategic Directions & Goals

Building Healthy Communities - We will work with communities to support the health and well-being of everyone.

Operational Plan Objectives

To distribute influenza products for Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) to community healthcare providers and to facilitate the provision of influenza immunizations in the community.

Summary of OPHS Program Requirements

OPHS Program: Immunization

Goals:

- To reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

Strategy:

- Disease Prevention/Health Protection

Requirements:

- Distribute influenza vaccine to healthcare providers, including hospitals and long-term care facilities
- Monitor the cold chain requirements and vaccine supply for local pharmacies in order to prevent influenza vaccine wastage
- Monitor immunization uptake rates for healthcare workers in hospitals and long term care facilities

Accountability Indicators:

- NA

Performance variance or discrepancy identified:

- No

Highlights

According to Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), 12,200 influenza related hospitalizations occur on average in Canada each year.¹ This data will vary from year to year depending on the severity of the influenza season and uptake of immunization. NACI reports approximately 3,500 deaths related to influenza on average

each year in Canada with the highest mortality rate typically occurring among adults 65 years of age and older.¹ Ontario represents ~39% of the Canadian population.

The UIIP offers influenza vaccine free of charge each year to all individuals six months of age and older who live, work or go to school in Ontario. WDGP promotes uptake of influenza vaccine by:

- Distributing influenza vaccine to local healthcare providers (HCP) and facilities as soon as possible each fall;
- Monitoring pharmacies for cold chain compliance and vaccine wastage;
- Disseminating information to local HCP, including pharmacists, about product availability, eligibility and UIIP requirements; and
- Promoting influenza vaccine to healthcare workers and monitoring rates of influenza immunization for this group.

2019/2020 Influenza Vaccine

For the northern hemisphere's 2019-2020 season, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the following strains be included in the vaccine:²

Quadrivalent vaccine:

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage).

Trivalent vaccines:

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;
- A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus of the B/Victoria/2/87-lineage.

Influenza Product Availability:

In the 2019/2020 influenza season, the Ministry provided quadrivalent influenza vaccine products for ages > 6 months as well as a high-dose trivalent product for seniors. This was the second season that the high-dose trivalent vaccine was offered free-of-charge through the publicly-funded program for clients > 65 years of age. The high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine provides better protection against vaccine strains including

influenza A H3N2 strain, which has been associated with greater disease burden in individuals who are ≥ 65 years of age, compared to the standard dose trivalent product.¹ There is currently no data on how high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine directly compares with standard dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine.

Due to manufacturing issues, no FluMist®Quadrivalent was available for use in Canada for the 2019-2020 influenza season. This product is the only intranasal vaccine product, licensed in Canada, for children ages 2-17 years.

Limitations to Vaccine products at Pharmacies:

For the 2019-2020 Influenza season, quadrivalent influenza vaccine was available to be administered to individuals 5 years of age and older in a pharmacy setting. Publicly funded high-dose trivalent vaccine was not available in pharmacies again this year. This high-dose product was distributed through primary care providers (e.g. physicians and nurse practitioners) and in other settings such as long-term care homes and hospitals.

Influenza Vaccine Distribution/Administration

The following products were distributed to WDG HCP and facilities (excluding Pharmacies) between October 7, 2019 and February 14, 2020.

Product	Doses
Quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIV)	42,936
High-dose trivalent vaccine (HD-TIV)	16,955
	59,891

WDGPH nurses administered 4,842 doses of influenza vaccine products via in-house flu clinics and appointments. This is an increase of 1,457 doses from last season. 1,299 of the doses administered at WDGPH offices were high-dose trivalent vaccine for those >65 years.

In addition, local pharmacies ordered 34,190 doses and administered 33,090 of the distributed doses, to date. The number of doses administered by pharmacies is greater every year as community members continue to readily access quadrivalent influenza vaccine from their Pharmacist.

Overall, a total of **94,081** doses of influenza vaccine were distributed in WDG. This is an increase of 4,654 doses from last year.

Healthcare Worker Influenza Immunization Reporting

NACI recommends that people who are potentially capable of transmitting influenza to those at high-risk should receive annual vaccination, regardless of whether the high-risk person has been immunized.¹ Immunization of care providers reduces illness for healthcare workers and lowers the risk of death and other serious outcomes for their clients.¹ Research shows that immunization of care providers and residents is associated with decreased risk of outbreaks in acute care and long term care facilities.¹

Data Table 1 indicates the percentage of healthcare workers by facility type that received annual influenza vaccine. Hospitals and long-term care facilities are required to report healthcare worker influenza immunization to Public Health. Data Tables 2 and 3 indicate the percentage of healthcare workers by facility that received annual influenza vaccine. Retirement homes are not currently required to report annual influenza vaccine received to Public Health.

Table 1. Percentage of healthcare workers with influenza vaccine by facility type

Facility Type	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Long Term Care Home	87%	30%	96%
Hospital	52%	35%	79%
Retirement Home *	75%	27%	100%

*Retirement homes are not required to report to Public Health. Some facilities did not share numbers, therefore data is incomplete.

Table 2. Percentage of Healthcare Workers with Influenza Vaccine by Facility

Long Term Care Facility	%Vaccinated
Avalon Care Centre	71%
Caressant Care Arthur	90%
Caressant Care Fergus	30%
Caressant Care Harriston	87%
Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care	64%
Eden House Care Facility	87%
Elliott Home for the Aged	89%
LaPointe-Fisher Nursing Home	66%
Morrison Park Nursing Home	94%
Riverside Glen Long Term Care	70%
Royal Terrace Long Term Care	93%
Saugeen Valley Nursing Centre	91%
Shelburne Residence Nursing Home	66%
Wellington Terrace Home for the Aged	96%

Table 3. Percentage of Healthcare Workers with Influenza Vaccine by Hospital

Hospital	%Vaccinated
Groves Memorial Community Hospital	70%
Guelph General Hospital	50%
Headwaters Health Care Centre	35%
Homewood Health Centre	52%
North Wellington Health Care-Louise Marshall Hospital	77%
North Wellington Health Care-Palmerston & District Hospital	79%
St. Joseph's Health Centre Guelph	37%

References

1. National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Summary of the NACI Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Statement for 2019-2020. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2019-45/issue-6-june-6-2019/article-1-naci-influenza-vaccine-statement-2019-2020.html>
2. World Health Organization. Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2019-2020 northern hemisphere influenza season. Available at: Related Reports https://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2019_20_north/en/