

Vaccine and Fall Preparedness Information Session

September 2023



PublicHealth
WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH
Stay Well.

Agenda



Welcome

Vaccine Information and Data

Medical Officer of Health Vaccine Recommendations for Fall 2023

Local Vaccination Rates

Roadblocks and Successful Strategies From Other Homes

Fall Preparedness and Outbreak Planning

Wrap Up and Questions

Benefits of Influenza and COVID-19 Immunization



- **Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent severe outcomes, hospitalizations and deaths**
- **Associated with decreased risk of outbreaks, illness and mortality**
- **Reduces risk of co-infection which can increase disease severity**
- **Decreased illness and mortality among your residents**

Who should get the influenza vaccine this fall?

- Recommended for everyone age 6 months and up
- Especially important for people at high risk of influenza-related complications:
 - Pregnant women
 - Adults and children with the chronic health conditions
 - Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities;
 - Adults 65 years of age and older;
 - All children 6 months to 5 years of age; and
 - Indigenous peoples
- High priority for people capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk

Vaccine Product Information

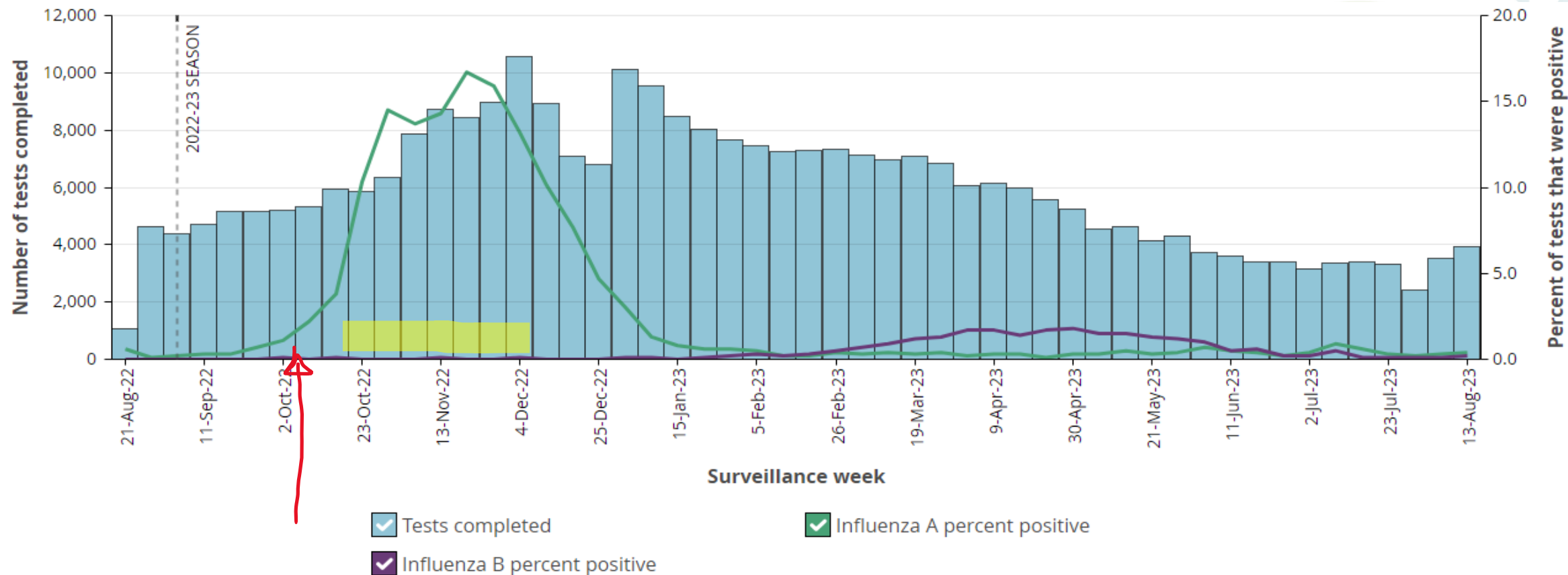
Available influenza vaccine distributed by the Ministry:

Product	New Product Abbreviation	Dosage	Packaging	Licensed Ages for Use
Flulaval Tetra	IIV4-SD (Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine-standard dose)	0.5ml	Multi-dose vial 10 doses/vial	≥ 6 months of age
Fluzone Quadrivalent	IIV4-SD (Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine-standard dose)	0.5ml	10 single dose prefilled syringes or Multi dose vial	≥ 6 months of age
Fluzone High Dose	IIV4-HD (Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine-high dose)	0.7ml	5 single dose prefilled syringes	≥65 years
Flud®	IIV3-Adj (Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine)	0.5ml	10 single dose prefilled syringes	≥65 years

Number of influenza tests performed and percent positive by surveillance week

August 21, 2022 to August 19, 2023

This graph shows provincial testing data for influenza over the previous 52 weeks.



COVID-19 Vaccine for Fall 2023

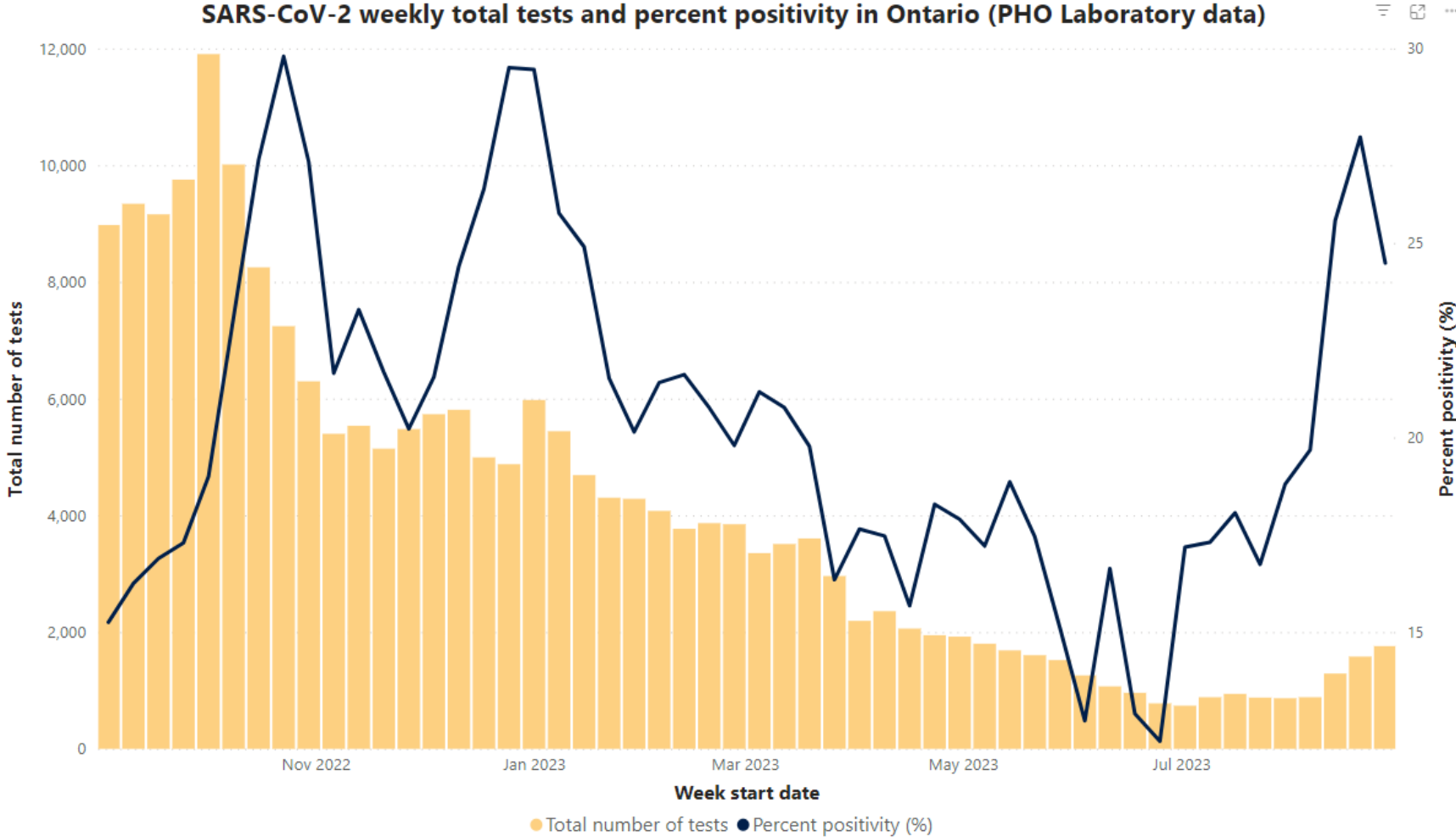
- Health Canada approved Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine on Sept. 12
- Targets Omicron XBB 1.5 subvariant which a closer match to what is currently circulating
- Approved for everyone 6 months of age and older
- Pfizer and Novavax are also expected to have approved COVID-19 vaccines shortly
- Can be given at the same time as the annual flu shot

Who Should get the COVID Vaccine this Fall?




- The simple answer is everyone age 6 months and up!
- But some people are at higher risk or live/work/care for those at high risk so need to be vaccinated first
 - Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings
 - Individuals with underlying medical conditions
 - Adults 65 years of age or older
 - Individuals who are pregnant or who are around infants < 6 months of age
 - Individuals in or from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities*
 - Members of racialized and other equity-deserving communities

COVID-19 Trends 2022-2023 season



Source: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

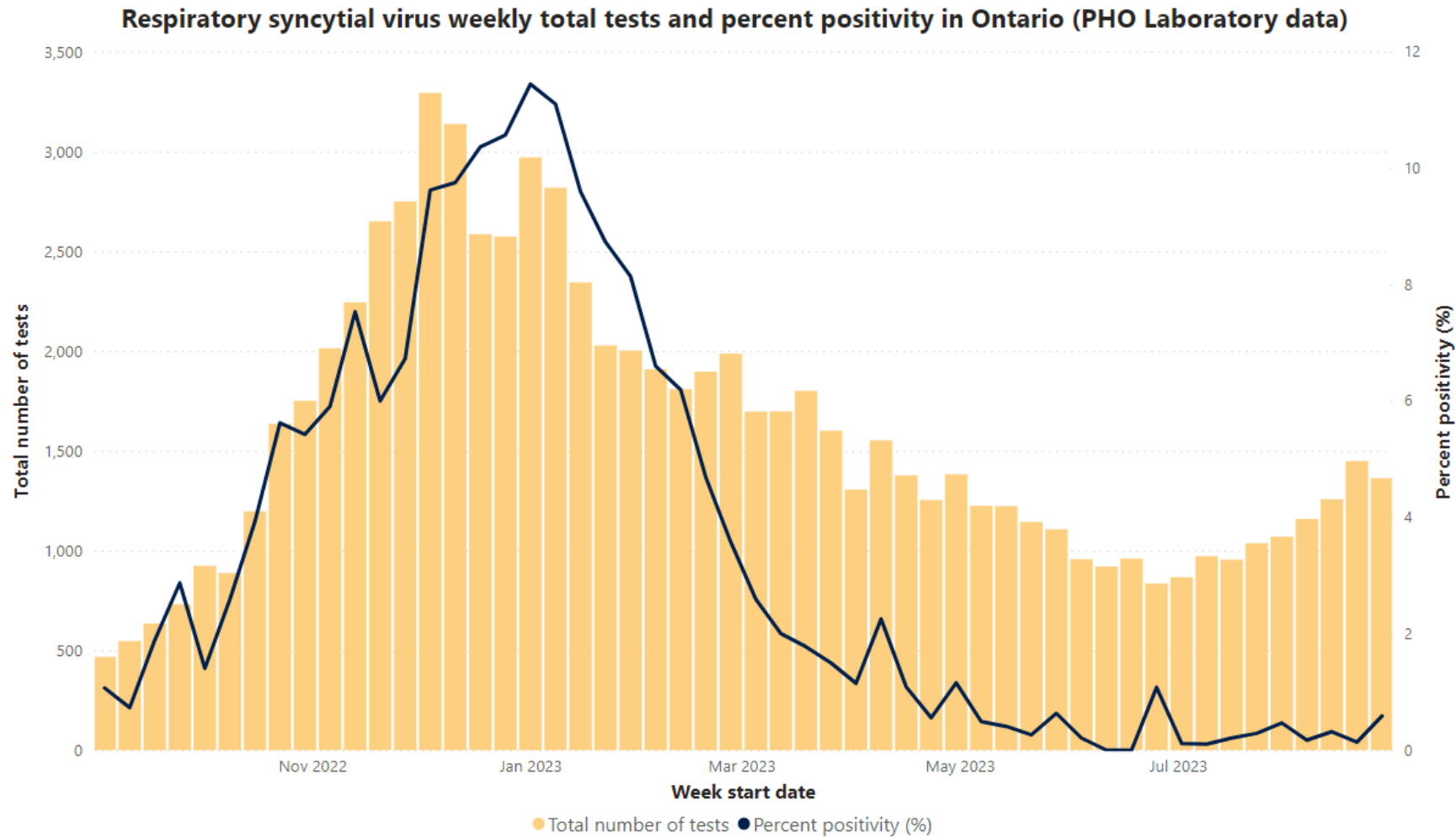
New RSV vaccine

- **Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection is a major cause of lower respiratory illness, particularly in infants, young children and older adults.**
 - **Health Canada approved first RSV vaccine (Arexvy) for those 60 years and older**
 - **Vaccine will be distributed to Long Term Care and eligible retirement homes about mid-October**
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RSV Vaccine Information

- Vaccine data shows very good efficacy at preventing infection and severe illness
- Will be publicly funded in Ontario for those 60 years and older living in long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, and in *some* retirement homes
- Although it is recommended for *surveillance reasons* to give it 2 weeks after the COVID and Flu vaccines for medical reasons and to make it easier to administer it may be given the same time as the COVID and Flu vaccines
- There is a limited supply of this vaccine so please make it available to your residents

RSV Trends 2022-2023 season



Source: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

**Q&A – When should we
plan to give influenza
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**Early October and
definitely before Halloween.**



**Q&A – Should we
vaccinate residents in
October if it has only
been 3 months since
their last COVID-19
vaccine??**



Q&A – Should we vaccinate residents in October if it has only been 3 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine??

YES! As long as it has been at least 3 months protect your residents.



Q&A – When should we give a fall COVID-19 vaccine to residents who just had confirmed COVID-19 infection?



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In the Spring – with the next round of resident vaccinations



**Q&A – Should you
give Influenza and
COVID-19 vaccine at
same time?**



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same time?**

**Yes! It is safe, convenient
and practical. And
consider RSV as well!**



Q&A – Some staff are worried about long-term side effects of COVID-19 vaccines. What does the evidence say?



Q&A – Some staff are worried about long-term side effects of COVID-19 vaccines. What does the evidence say?

Ongoing vaccine safety monitoring show COVID-19 vaccines are safe and benefits continue to outweigh the risks of COVID-19 disease.

BUT the long-term effects of getting COVID-19 infections are still being monitored.



**Q&A – I already had
COVID-19, what is the
point in getting a COVID-
19 vaccine this fall?**



Q&A – I already had COVID-19, what is the point in getting a COVID-19 vaccine this fall?

To build back protection that wanes over time and better protect against new circulating variants.

Hybrid immunity offers the best protection.*

***general population recommended to wait 6 months from confirmed COVID-19 infection**



Q&A – I got sick with COVID-19, even though I received the vaccine. Why should I get another vaccine if I still get sick?



Q&A – I got sick with COVID-19, even though I received the vaccine. Why should I get another vaccine if I still get sick?

COVID-19 vaccines reduce risk of severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death.



Q&A – Should we plan to give RSV vaccine at the same time as Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines?



Q&A – Should we plan to give RSV vaccine at the same time as Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines?

There is no medical reason to not give the RSV vaccine at the same time but some facilities may have enough staff to separate the vaccines by 2 weeks for surveillance reasons only.



**Q&A – Can staff
without an influenza
vaccine work on an
outbreak unit?**



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Yes. Staff need to take antiviral (Tamiflu) at own expense and wear appropriate PPE.



Q&A – Can staff work during a COVID-19 outbreak if they are not up-to-date on vaccinations?



Q&A – Can staff work during a COVID-19 outbreak if they are not up-to-date on vaccinations?

Yes, staff can work during a COVID-19 outbreak, regardless of vaccination status. Staff must wear appropriate PPE and monitor for symptoms.

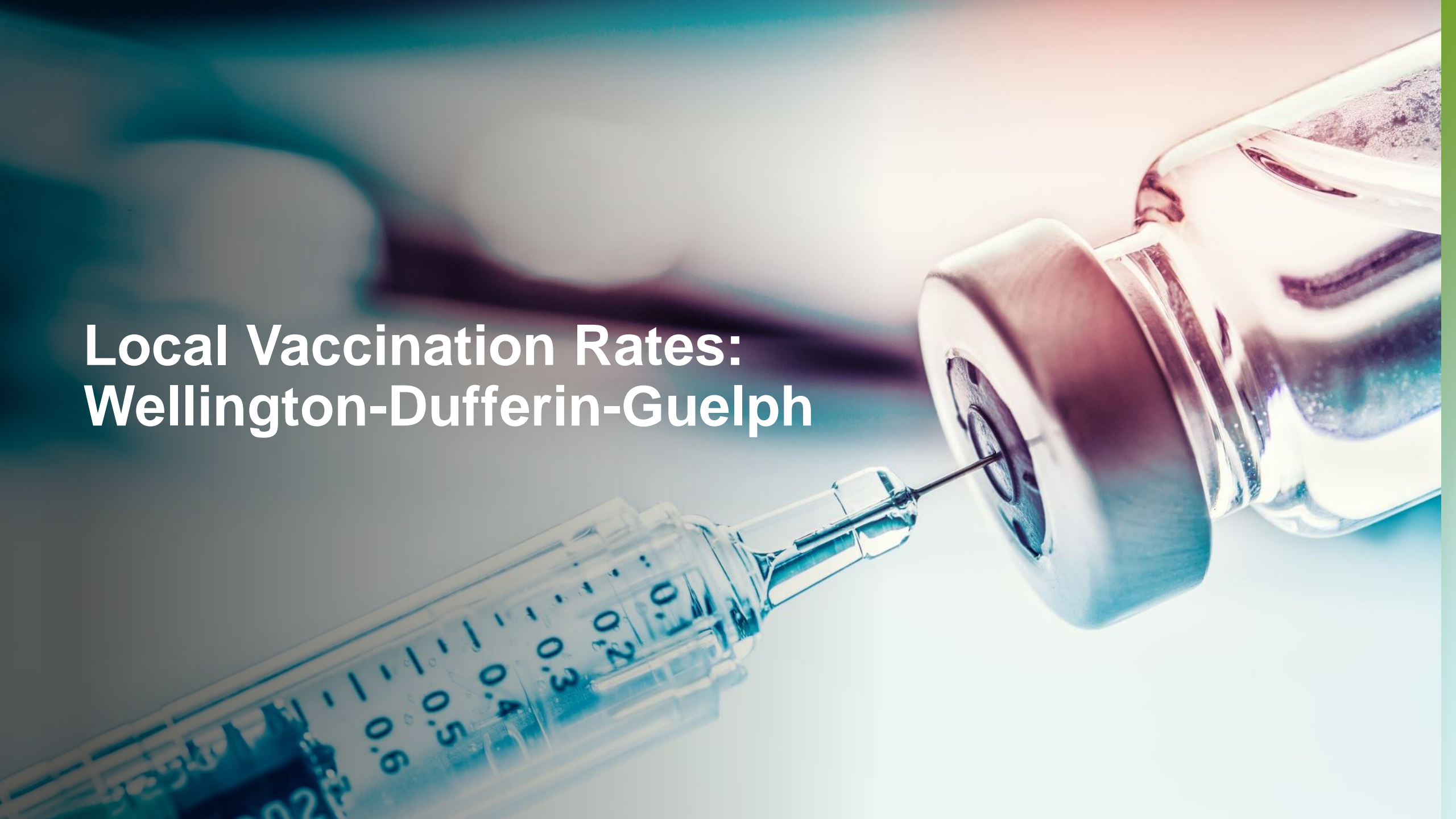


Summary of WDGPH's Vaccine Recommendations for LTCH/RH this Fall 2023



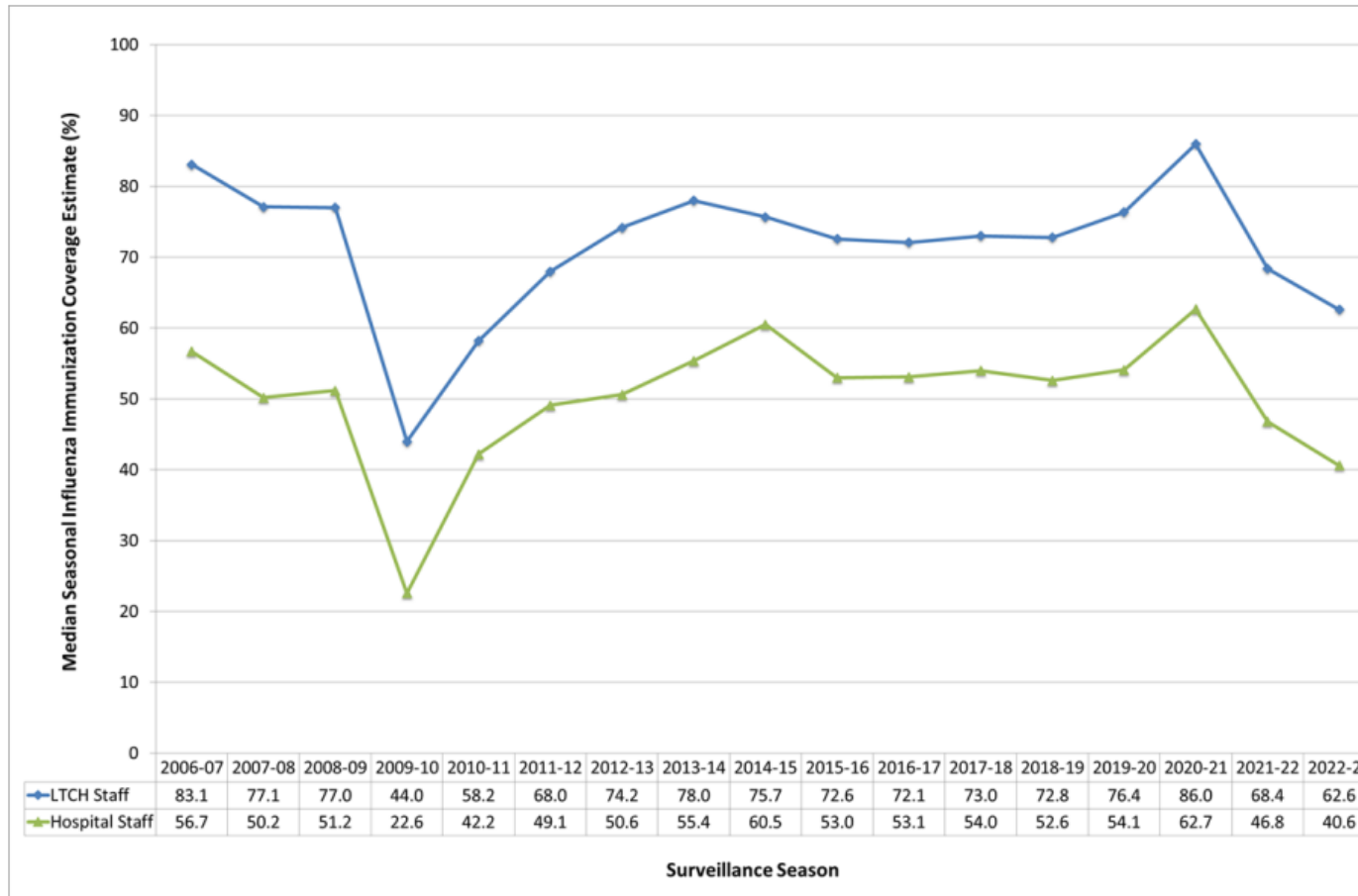
- **Vaccinate residents and staff in early October**
 - Delayed administration results in lost opportunity for protection before exposure
- **Vaccinate residents on the same schedule (annual/bi-annual)**
 - Residents can receive COVID-19 vaccine earlier than 6 months since last dose
 - Recommend waiting at least 3 months for residents (6 months for staff) after confirmed COVID-19 infection
- **Co-administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines this fall**

Local Vaccination Rates: Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph



Provincial staff influenza rates

Figure A. Median influenza immunization coverage estimates among LTCH and hospital staff, by influenza season: Ontario, 2006-07 to 2022-23 seasons



Source: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/F/2023/factsheet-influenza-immunization-rates-hcw-2022-23.pdf?sc_lang=en&rev=1d078e54721e4a638d455e96afb993f5&hash=18D9B3CF9B5EDA7BC1F1649964566E0E

Local Vaccination Rates

- WDGPH collects vaccination rates from LTCH/RH in WDG
- Summary of vaccination data from last year:
 - Influenza vaccination rates among residents was high (~90%)
 - Fall COVID-19 vaccination rates among residents was good overall (~80%) but large variation across facilities (40% to 100%)
 - **Timing of COVID-19 vaccines was delayed compared to Influenza vaccines**
 - Influenza vaccination rates among employees was low overall (~70% LTCH, ~60% RH) and large variation across facilities (15% to 100%)
- Vaccination goal is over 90% for residents and 80% for staff

Protect Framework

Promote Vaccine Confidence in your Setting

- P** Presume they will get the vaccine with positive statements
- O** Offer to share your knowledge about the facts and your experience with having had the vaccine
- T** Tailor the recommendation to their specific health concerns
- E** Empathize with their feelings, thoughts, and lived experiences
- C** Address specific concerns yet focus on the positive message, acknowledge then address fears, concerns and correct any misinformation
- T** Talk through a specific plan for where and when to get the vaccine

Successful Vaccination Strategies

From Long Term Care and Retirement Homes in WDGPH

- **Build trust with team members**
- **Open door policy**
- **Provide education/information**
- **Transparency**
- **Involve residents and family members**
- **Provide convenient, flexible vaccination clinic times for residents and staff**
- **Offer incentives (draws, prizes, paid time off)**
- **Positive workplace culture and support from leadership**
- **Vaccination policies**

Roadblocks and Strategies to Overcome From Long Term Care and Retirement Homes in WDGPH



- **Vaccine Fatigue**

- Provide clear and specific messaging as to why vaccination is important and the additional protection it provides

- **Concerns**

- Listen to and respond to questions using a tailored approach
- Provide empathy and understanding
- Address specific concerns yet focus on positive message

- **Misinformation**

- Address misinformation by sharing key facts. Do not repeat the myth as this may reinforce it
- Direct residents, staff and family to credible resources

- **Staff turnover**

- Provide strong recommendations
- Include information on risks and benefits. Frame immunization in terms of positive gains.

Fall Preparedness and Outbreak Planning



- **WDGPH will be connecting with all LTCH/RH this fall to:**
 - Schedule outbreak preparedness phone calls
 - Share information and resources
 - Schedule on-site IPAC visits
- **Vaccine clinics remain the priority when scheduling calls/visits**
- **IPAC Hub support is available to all facilities**
 - Can provide education, training, coaching, implementation support
- **Ensure all suspect/confirmed outbreaks are reported to WDGPH**



Contact Us

1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752

congregatesetting@wdgpublichealth.ca

For more information, resources and tools:

wdgpublichealth.ca/IPAC_Hub



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Resources and References

- **Vaccination Guidance and Statements**

- [Public Health Agency of Canada, National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) statement: Seasonal influenza vaccine for 2023-2024](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada, National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) statement: Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023](#)
- [Ministry of Health, *COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance*, as current \(version 7.0 July 7, 2023\)](#)
- [Ministry of Health, 2023/2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#)

- **Surveillance Data**

- [Public Health Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Fact Sheet – Median influenza immunization coverage estimates among hospital and long-term care staff, 2022-23 influenza season, Ontario](#)
- [WDG Public Health – Long-Term Care Home/Retirement Home COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Rates 2022](#)

Resources and References

- **Promoting Vaccine Uptake**

- [Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care *Tools to boost Vaccine Confidence in Long-Term Care Teams*](#)
- [Protect Framework for promoting COVID-19 vaccine confidence in LTC teams \(2021\)](#)
- [Public Health Ontario – Primer, Building Confidence in Vaccines \(2021\)](#)

