

**SUBJECT:** 2023-2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program - Vaccine Distribution

**Date:** September 12, 2023

**Pages:** 3 (plus attached Influenza Vaccine Order Form)

**To:** Physicians, Hospitals, Long-Term Care and Prequalified Retirement Homes

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDG Public Health) will be distributing its first provincial allotment of Influenza vaccine the week of October 2, 2023. Vaccine will be prioritized in the following order: long term care homes, retirement homes, hospitals and primary care providers. Please place your order as soon as you know when your clinics will be held.

Please order enough vaccine to meet your needs until the week of October 16, 2023, when WDG Public Health expects to receive our second shipment.

Influenza vaccination should be offered to all patients over the age of six months. Individuals six months and older may receive a COVID-19 vaccine simultaneously with (i.e., same day), or at any time before or after non-COVID-19 vaccines (including live and non-live vaccines).<sup>1</sup> Healthcare providers can begin immunizing patients for influenza as soon as vaccine is received.

## Vaccine Viral Strain Components for the 2023-2024 Season

Quadrivalent Inactivated influenza Vaccine (IIV4-SD/IIV4-HD)	High-dose Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV3-Adj)
<p><b>Egg-based vaccines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;</li> <li>an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and</li> <li>a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus</li> <li>a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cell culture- or recombinant-based vaccines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;</li> <li>an A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and</li> <li>a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus</li> <li>a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Egg-based vaccines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;</li> <li>an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and</li> <li>a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus</li> </ul> <p><b>Cell culture- or recombinant-based vaccines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus;</li> <li>an A/Darwin/6/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and</li> <li>a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus</li> </ul>

**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
Fluad®	IIV3-Adj (Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine)	0.5ml	10 single dose prefilled syringes	≥65 years

**Important Notes:**

Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent is only authorized for those 65 years of age and older. Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent are different products. Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products to ensure that the right vaccine is being administered to the right person.

Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent and Fluad® will be available through physicians and primary care providers, participating pharmacies and retirement homes, LTCHs and hospitals.

FluMist® will not be publicly funded for the 2023/2024 influenza season.

**COVID-19 Boosters**

Updated COVID-19 booster products (targeting XBB Omicron lineages) are currently being reviewed by Health Canada. Once available, **booster doses will be recommended for all eligible populations** per guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Health is expected to provide further details regarding the COVID-19 vaccine rollout this month.

**This fall, please consider offering your patients a COVID-19 booster and a flu shot at the same visit.** These vaccines can be administered simultaneously (i.e., same day) or at any time before or after one another. This guidance applies to everyone over the age of six months and is intended to reduce barriers to receiving all recommended vaccines.

**Once the Ministry of Health announces its fall COVID-19 immunization program, WDGP will communicate details about the new vaccine formulation and the process for ordering.**

**References:**

1. Government of Canada. Canadian Immunization Guide: Timing of vaccine Administration, accessed September 5, 2023. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-10-timing-vaccine-administration.html#p1c9a4>
2. Government of Canada. National Advisory Committee: Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023, July 11, 2023. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-use-covid-19-vaccines-fall-2023.html>

**For more information, please contact:**

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