

## 2018/2019 Universal Influenza Immunization Program Health Care Provider Q&A: Information for individuals 18 to 64 years of age

### Population and Public Health Division

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only. It is not intended to provide medical or legal advice.

### 1. What publicly funded influenza vaccines are available for individuals 18 to 64 years of age for Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) during the 2018/2019 influenza season?

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		
Vaccine Product	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	
Format	Multi-dose vial	Multi-dose vial (MDV) Prefilled syringe (PFS)	
Administration Route	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	
Age Indications as per product monograph	≥6 months	≥6 months	
UIIP Eligibility for those 18 to 64 years of age	Yes	Yes	
Most Common Allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egg Protein*</li> <li>• Thimerosal</li> </ul>	MDV:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egg Protein*</li> <li>• Thimerosal</li> </ul>
		PFS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egg Protein*</li> </ul>
Post-Puncture Shelf Life	28 Days	MDV:	28 days
		PFS:	N/A

\*According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any appropriate product, including QIV.

	QIV	
Vaccine Product	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent
Package Dimensions in cm	3 x 3 x 6	MDV: 3.6 x 2.9 x 6
		PFS: 10.4 x 8.9 x 3.8

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

## 2. How many doses of the influenza vaccine are needed to provide protection?

One dose of the influenza vaccine is needed to provide protection each year (every influenza season).

## 3. How many strains do the influenza vaccines protect against?

The QIV is a quadrivalent influenza vaccine, meaning it protects against four strains – two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains.

## 4. Frequently asked questions about the influenza vaccine:

Question	Answer
<b>Can the vaccine cause influenza?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The QIV contains inactivated influenza virus so individuals cannot get influenza from the vaccine.</li> </ul>
<b>Can the vaccine be given to individuals when they are ill?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those with a severe acute illness with or without fever should usually wait until the symptoms subside before being immunized.</li> <li>Individuals with a minor illness with or without a fever (e.g., a cold) can still get the vaccine.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the common side effects from the vaccine?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redness, swelling, and soreness at the injection site</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Tiredness/weakness</li> <li>Fever</li> </ul>
<b>Who should NOT get the influenza vaccine?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to any ingredient in the vaccine, with the exception of egg*</li> <li>Anyone who has developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous influenza vaccination</li> </ul>

\*According to NACI, egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any appropriate product, including QIV.

## **5. What information should be provided for individuals who experience a potential adverse event following immunization (AEFI) with the influenza vaccine?**

The influenza vaccine, like any medicine, can cause side effects, which in most cases are mild, lasting only a few days. Life-threatening allergic (anaphylactic) reactions are very rare. If they do occur, it is typically within a few minutes to a few hours after receiving the vaccine. Guillian-Barré Syndrome (GBS) or Oculorespiratory Syndrome (ORS) may occur in extremely rare instances. Please refer to the Health Care Provider Q & A: General information fact sheet for further details.

Individuals should be advised to call their doctor/nurse practitioner or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within three days of getting the vaccine:

- Hives
- Swelling of the mouth and throat
- Trouble breathing, hoarseness or wheezing
- High fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- Convulsions (seizures)
- Other serious reactions following vaccination

Health care providers (i.e., physicians, nurses and pharmacists) are required by law (i.e., Health Protection and Promotion Act, s. 38) to report AEFIs. Reports should be made using the Ontario AEFI Reporting Form (available at:

[www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Vaccine-Safety.aspx](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/Vaccine-Safety.aspx)) and sent to the local public health unit (available at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx)).

## **6. Where can health care providers find more information about the UIIP?**

Health care providers looking for more information about influenza, influenza vaccine, or the province's Universal Influenza Immunization Program can refer to the Health Care Provider Q & A: General information fact sheet.

## **7. Who should individuals talk to if they have questions about influenza or any other vaccines?**

Individuals looking for general information about influenza, the influenza vaccine or the province's Universal Influenza Immunization Program can call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 toll free in Ontario (TTY#1-800-387-5559) or visit: [www.ontario.ca/flu](http://www.ontario.ca/flu). Questions about the vaccine that are specific to an individual's medical condition should be discussed with a health care provider or local public health unit. A list of public health units is available at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx)

**For additional information on influenza or the vaccine, please visit the following websites or call your local public health unit:**

- a) Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program: [www.ontario.ca/influenza](http://www.ontario.ca/influenza)
- b) Public Health Agency of Canada - National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec)
- c) Immunize Canada: [www.immunize.ca](http://www.immunize.ca)
- d) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Seasonal Influenza: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

Version française disponible en communiquant avec le 1 866 532-3161 ATS: 1 800 387-5559  
(web site: [www.health.gov.on.ca/fr/ccom/flu/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/fr/ccom/flu/))

v.2018-09-12