

2018/2019 Universal Influenza Immunization Program Health Care Provider Q&A: Information for individuals 6 months to 17 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 6 months to 17 years of age for Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) during the 2018/2019 influenza season?

		Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (Q-LAIV)
Vaccine product		FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	FluMist® Quadrivalent
Dosage		0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.2 mL (0.1mL in each nostril)
Format		Multi-dose vial	Multi-dose vial (MDV) Prefilled syringe (PFS)	Prefilled single use sprayer
Administration Route		Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	Intranasal spray
Age Indications as per product monograph		≥6 months	≥6 months	2 to 59 years
UIIP Eligibility for those:	6 to 23 months	Yes	Yes	No
	2 to 17 years	Yes	Yes	Yes

	QIV		Q-LAIV
Vaccine product	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	
Most Common Allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Protein* • Thimerosal 	MDV:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Protein* • Thimerosal
		PFS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Protein*
Post-Puncture Shelf Life	28 days	MDV:	28 days
		PFS:	N/A
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
			10.6 x 17.6 x 2.9

*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.

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

2. Which vaccine should be used for individuals 2 to 17 years of age?

The current evidence does not support the preferential use of QIV or Q-LAIV in individuals 2 to 17 years of age. Individuals 2 to 17 years of age without a medical reason that prevents them from receiving the influenza vaccine or a particular product may receive either Q-LAIV or QIV. For more information, please see the *Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2018-2019* available at:

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-statement-seasonal-influenza-vaccine-2018-2019.html.

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

Age	Number of doses recommended
6 months to under 9 years of age - Not previously immunized with influenza vaccine in the past	2 doses at least 4 weeks apart*
6 months to under 9 years of age - Previously immunized with influenza vaccine at least once in the past	1 dose
9 years of age and older	1 dose

*The same type of vaccine does not need to be used for both doses – a child who received live attenuated vaccine for the first dose can receive inactivated vaccine for the second dose and vice versa.

4. How many strains do the influenza vaccines protect against?

The QIV and Q-LAIV are both quadrivalent influenza vaccines, meaning they protect against four strains – two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains.

5. Who can administer the influenza vaccine?

- Regulated health professionals who are authorized to administer vaccines
 - Note: trained pharmacists may only administer publicly funded vaccine to individuals 5 years of age and older
- Individuals under a delegation from an authorized regulated health professional

6. Frequently asked questions about the influenza vaccines:

Question	QIV	Q-LAIV
Can the vaccine cause influenza?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains inactivated influenza virus so individuals cannot get influenza from the vaccine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains live attenuated (weakened) viruses that do not cause influenza illness. • The live attenuated (weakened) viruses are temperature sensitive, which means they are designed to only work at cooler temperatures found within the nose. • The viruses cannot infect the lungs or other areas where warmer temperatures exist.
Can the vaccine be given to individuals when they are ill?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with a severe acute illness with or without fever should usually wait until the symptoms subside before being immunized. • Individuals with a minor illness with or without a fever (e.g., a cold) can still get the vaccine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with a severe acute illness with or without fever should usually wait until the symptoms subside before being immunized. • Individuals with significant nasal congestion that would impede the delivery of the vaccine should delay vaccination with the Q-LAIV until the congestion is reduced. • Alternatively, the injectable QIV can be received.

Question	QIV	Q-LAIV
What are the common side effects from the vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness, swelling, and soreness at the injection site • Headache • Tiredness/weakness • Fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runny nose and/or nasal congestion • Cough • Fever • Tiredness/weakness • Sore throat • Headache
Who should NOT get the influenza vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone under 6 months of age (the vaccine is not authorized for use in this age group) • 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* • Anyone who has developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous influenza vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children younger than 2 years of age (the vaccine is not authorized for use in this age group) • 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* • Anyone who has developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous influenza vaccination • People with severe asthma defined as people who are on high dose oral or inhaled steroids OR who have active wheezing OR have been medically treated for wheezing in the last 7 days prior to vaccination • People with weakened immune system due to disease or medical treatment • Children less than 18 years of age who are on long-term aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy • People taking a medication active against influenza (influenza antiviral medication). See number 7 below for details. • Pregnant women

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

7. Frequently asked questions about the Q-LAIV:

Question	Answer
Can the vaccine be given to an individual while they are taking influenza antiretroviral medications?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q-LAIV should not be given until 48 hours after the last dose of an antiviral medication (e.g., Tamiflu® or Relenza®). • If an individual takes antiviral drugs within two weeks of getting Q-LAIV, the individual should be revaccinated at least 48 hours after the last dose of antiviral medication, because the antiviral drugs may prevent the vaccine from working.
Can the vaccine be given to breastfeeding mothers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfeeding mothers 17 years of age and under, upon consultation with their health care provider, may receive the Q-LAIV as long as they don't have any contraindication to getting that vaccine.
Can the vaccine shed influenza virus or transmit influenza to other people?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The live attenuated vaccine viruses can be shed from the nose after Q-LAIV administration. • Studies have shown that viral shedding decreases with increasing age. • Children may shed for an average duration of 7.6 days, with peak shedding around day 2-3 after vaccination; shedding is infrequent after day 11 post vaccination. • It is rare for shed virus to spread to others and cause illness since shedding generally occurs at levels too low to cause an infection. • Serious illness has not been reported among unvaccinated individuals infected with vaccine virus through close contact with a vaccinated individual. • Q-LAIV recipients should avoid close contact with individuals with severe immune compromising conditions (e.g., bone marrow transplant recipients requiring isolation in hospital) for at least two weeks following vaccination due to the theoretical risk for transmitting a vaccine virus and causing infection.
Should personal protective equipment be used to administer the vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks are not recommended when administering the Q-LAIV. • Routine practices, as when administering any immunization, is adequate.
Does the Q-LAIV have a shorter shelf-life than other influenza vaccines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Q-LAIV shelf-life is considerably shorter compared to the other publicly funded influenza vaccines. • Be sure to check the expiry date on the Q-LAIV.
Can the vaccine be purchased privately for those not eligible for the publicly funded vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals not eligible to receive publicly funded Q-LAIV (i.e. adults 18 to 59 years of age) may still purchase the vaccine on the private market (e.g., at their local pharmacy). This vaccine would be an option to consider for adults who are severely needle phobic and could not be vaccinated with an injectable QIV.

8. 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.

Parents/guardians 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 to the vaccine

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) and sent to the local public health unit (available at: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx).

9. 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.

10. 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, INFOnline at 1-866-532-3161 toll free in Ontario (TTY#1-800-387-5559) or visit: 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.

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

- a) Universal Influenza Immunization Program: 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
- c) Immunize Canada: www.immunize.ca
- d) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Seasonal Influenza: 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/)

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