

2018/2019 Universal Influenza Immunization Program

Health Care Provider Q&A: Information for individuals ≥ 65 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 ≥ 65 years of age for Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) during the 2018/2019 influenza season?

	Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		High-Dose Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (high-dose TIV)
Vaccine product(s)	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Fluzone® High-Dose
Dosage	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Format	Multi-dose vial	Multi-dose vial (MDV) Prefilled syringe (PFS)	Prefilled syringe
Administration Route	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection	Intramuscular injection
Age Indications as per product monograph	≥ 6 months	≥ 6 months	≥ 65 years
UIIP Eligibility for those ≥ 65 years of age	Yes	Yes	Yes
Most Common Allergens	• Egg Protein* • Thimerosal	MDV: PFS:	• Egg Protein* • Egg Protein*

*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 high-dose TIV.

	QIV		High-dose TIV
Vaccine product(s)	FluLaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Fluzone® High-Dose
Post-Puncture Shelf Life	28 days	MDV: 28 days	N/A
		PFS: N/A	
Package Dimensions in cm	3 x 3 x 6	MDV: 10.4 x 8.9 x 3.8	10.4 x 8.9 x 2.3
		PFS: 10.4 x 8.9 x 3.8	

Important note:

- Fluzone® Quadrivalent and Fluzone® High-Dose are different products, which may provide differing protection against influenza. Please use caution when administering Fluzone® products to ensure that the right vaccine is being administered to the right person.
- Fluzone® High-Dose will be available through primary care providers (e.g. physicians and nurse practitioners), participating retirement homes, long-term care homes and hospitals. Fluzone® High-Dose will not be available through pharmacies.

2. What is the high-dose trivalent inactivated vaccine (high-dose TIV) and how is it different than the quadrivalent inactivated vaccine (QIV)?

The high-dose TIV contains three influenza strains, which are of a higher antigen content per strain than standard-dose influenza vaccine formulations. The high-dose TIV contains 60 µg of hemagglutinin (HA) protein for each of the three vaccine strains compared to 15 µg of HA per strain in a standard dose vaccine. Studies have shown that the higher antigen content improves the immune response and also improves how well the vaccine works compared to standard dose TIV, which is important since older individuals may not respond as well to influenza vaccine as younger individuals.

Both the high-dose TIV and the QIV formulations are inactivated influenza vaccines. The high-dose TIV contains only one strain of influenza B compared to the two influenza B strains in the QIV. The QIV formulations currently available contain 15 µg of HA per vaccine strain.

To date no studies have directly compared high-dose TIV and QIV formulations.

3. Which influenza vaccine should an individuals ≥65 years of age receive?

High-dose TIV 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 TIV formulation. There is currently no data on how high-dose TIV compares to QIV products.

Given the options available for vaccination for those ≥65 years of age, it is important to discuss the specifics of each available vaccine to assist the individual in their decision making.

For more information on high-dose TIV and QIV formulations, 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.

4. 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 (each influenza season).

5. Frequently asked questions about the influenza vaccines:

Question	Answer
Can the vaccine cause influenza?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Both QIV and high-dose TIV contain inactivated influenza virus so individuals cannot get influenza from the vaccine.
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.
What are the common side effects from the vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Redness, swelling, and soreness at the injection siteHeadacheTiredness/weaknessFever
Who should NOT get the influenza vaccine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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

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

6. 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. Guillain-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 reaction 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).

7. 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.

8. Who should individuals talk to if they have any 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. 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) Ontario's 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/)