



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Influenza Vaccine Available for High-Risk Groups Only

**Influenza vaccines are now available to order for high-risk individuals, healthcare workers, and first responders.**

Individuals at high risk of influenza-related complications or who are more likely to be hospitalized due to influenza include:

- All individuals who are pregnant.
- Residents and staff of congregate living settings.
- People who are 65 years of age and older.
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age.
- Individuals who are from a First Nation, Inuit, or Métis community, and/or who self-identify as First Nation, Inuit or Métis and their household members.
- Members of racialized and other equity deserving communities.
- Individuals 6 months of age and older with the following chronic health conditions:
  - Cardiac or pulmonary disorders
  - Diabetes mellitus or other metabolic disease
  - Cancer
  - Conditions or medications which compromise the immune system
  - Renal disease
  - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy
  - Neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions
  - Morbid obesity (Body mass index of 40 or greater)
  - Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods

### Co-Administration

Consider co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines as able and appropriate. **Influenza vaccines may be administered at the same time, before, or after COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccines in individuals six months of age and older.** It is recommended to administer the vaccines in separate limbs or separate the injection sites by at least 2.5 cm (1 inch). Currently, there are no studies on the co-administration of Shingrix® with Fludax® or Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent. With Fludax®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact with Shingrix®.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



# Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Available to Order

Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		
Vaccine Product	<a href="#">FluLaval Tetra</a>	<a href="#">Fluzone® Quadrivalent</a>
Manufacturer	GSK	Sanofi Pasteur
Micrograms of Haemagglutinin	15 µg	15 µg
Dose	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Route	IM	IM
Age Indication	6 months of age and older	6 months of age and older
Most Common Allergens	<sup>a</sup> Egg protein, <sup>b</sup> Thimerosal	<sup>a</sup> Egg protein, <sup>b</sup> Thimerosal

	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj)
Vaccine Product	<a href="#">Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent</a>	<a href="#">Fluad®</a>
Manufacturer	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
Micrograms of Haemagglutinin	60 µg	15 µg
Dose	0.7 mL	0.5 mL
Route	IM	IM
Age Indication	65 years of age and older	65 years of age and older
Most Common Allergens	<sup>a</sup> Egg protein	<sup>a</sup> Egg protein, Kanamycin, Neomycin

<sup>a</sup>The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) indicates an egg allergy is not a contraindication for influenza vaccines and egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using the full dose of any age-appropriate product.

<sup>b</sup>Thimerosal is present in multidose vials.

## Ordering

- Place online orders for a one-month supply by visiting <https://forms.durham.ca/Health/Order-Influenza-Vaccines-Online>.
- Allow 5 to 7 business days for order processing. Sites will be contacted by phone or email when the order is ready for pick-up at the requested location (Whitby or Port Perry).
- Primary care providers should not expect to receive all doses that were received in the previous season in their first order.
- To ensure equitable distribution across Durham Region, DRHD may adjust order quantities and/or substitute products based on site specific 2022/2023 influenza vaccine administration data and supply availability.
- **Do not delay vaccination for a particular vaccine product.** Any of the available influenza vaccines would be preferable to remaining unvaccinated. The most important message to communicate is that individuals should be immunized!
- **Wait until November before conducting large-scale influenza immunization clinics** to guarantee an adequate supply of vaccine is available to meet clinic demands.

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# Supply and Distribution

At the beginning of the influenza season, the Ministry of Health (MOH) receives a portion of the total provincial supply and initially distributes in smaller quantities to ensure equitable distribution. There may be unanticipated restrictions on vaccine supply resulting in vaccine delivery delays. **The MOH recommends providers do not book appointments prior to receiving the influenza vaccine.**

**Doses are prioritized in the following order:**

- Hospitals and long-term care homes (end of September to early October)
- Retirement homes, other settings with vulnerable populations, physicians, pharmacies, other providers (early-to-mid-October)
- General population (October 30)

## Ensuring Every Dose Counts

DRHD recognizes the critical role of primary care in safeguarding public health, especially during the influenza season. As another influenza season approaches, it is important to highlight the shared responsibility to minimize vaccine waste and make sure every dose counts. Ensure influenza vaccine waste is kept to a minimum by:

- Ordering only a **one-month supply** at a time.
- Considering projected vaccine needs, including patient demographics and current demand.
- Committing to proper cold chain maintenance and **ensure a plan is in place to monitor vaccine during staff absences**. Report cold chain breaks immediately by calling 905-668-7711 ext. 3063.
- Ensuring doses ordered are doses administered.

For more information on the 2023-2024 season visit [www.durham.ca/hcp](http://www.durham.ca/hcp), [durham.ca/flu](http://durham.ca/flu) and [ontario.ca/influenza](http://ontario.ca/influenza).

If you have any feedback about Fax Abouts or wish to recommend a topic for distribution, please email [Faxabout@durham.ca](mailto:Faxabout@durham.ca).

October 2, 2023

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