



# Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



## Influenza and COVID-19 XBB Vaccines Now Available for Everyone

Influenza and COVID-19 XBB vaccines are now available to order for the general population. **Individuals six months of age and older are encouraged to receive both the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines as soon as possible.** Respiratory viral illness season typically runs from October to April. Check out our **Respiratory Virus Data Tracker** at [durham.ca/resptracker](https://durham.ca/resptracker) to see the status of COVID-19 and influenza cases in Durham Region throughout the season.

### Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Available to Order

Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		
Vaccine Product	<a href="#">FluLaval Tetra</a>	<a href="#">Fluzone® Quadrivalent</a>
Micrograms of Haemagglutinin	15 µg	15 µg
Dose/Route	0.5 mL/IM	0.5 mL/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 (HD-QIV)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-Adj)
Vaccine Product	<a href="#">Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent</a>	<a href="#">Fluad®</a>
Micrograms of Haemagglutinin	60 µg	15 µg
Dose/Route	0.7 mL/IM	0.5 mL/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 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.

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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.



## Ordering Reminders for Influenza Vaccines

- Place orders for a one-month supply by visiting [durham.ca/Health/Order-Influenza-Vaccines-Online](https://durham.ca/Health/Order-Influenza-Vaccines-Online).
- To ensure equitable distribution, 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.

## Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines Available to Order

Vaccine Product	Pfizer Comirnaty® XBB.1.5	Pfizer Comirnaty® XBB.1.5	Pfizer Comirnaty® XBB.1.5
Dose/Route	0.2 mL [3 mcg]	0.3 mL [10 mcg] / IM	0.3 mL [30 mcg]
Age Indication	6 months to 4 years of age	5 to 11 years of age	12 years of age and older
Most Common Allergens	Polyethylene Glycol (PEG), Tromethamine, Tromethamine (hydrochloride)		

Vaccine Product	Moderna Spikevax® XBB.1.5	Moderna Spikevax® XBB.1.5
Dose/Route	0.25 mL [25 mcg]	0.5 mL [50 mcg]
Age Indication	6 months to 11 years of age	12 years of age and older
Most Common Allergens	Polyethylene Glycol (PEG), Tromethamine, Tromethamine (hydrochloride)	

## 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 Fluvad® or Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent. With Fluvad®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact with Shingrix®.

**There are two exceptions.** Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines should not be co-administered with Imvamune vaccine for mpox and the Arexvy vaccine for RSV. Avoiding co-administration is suggested to help ensure accuracy of AEFI reporting.

- A **4-week** interval is recommended between administration of **Imvamune** and **COVID-19 vaccine**.
- A **2-week** interval is recommended between administration of **Imvamune** and **influenza vaccine**.
- A **2-week** interval is recommended between administration of **Arexvy** and **either influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccines**.

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## Ensuring Every Dose Counts

DRHD recognizes the critical role of primary care in safeguarding public health, especially during the respiratory illness season and it is important to highlight the shared responsibility to minimize vaccine waste and make sure every dose counts. Ensure 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.**

## Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

Health care providers (HCPs) play an important role in vaccine acceptance and the success of vaccine programs. Public Health Ontario (2021) identified key principles HCPs can use when engaging in conversations about vaccines:

- Be empathetic and understanding of the patient's unique situation.
- Present vaccination as the default approach early on (e.g., "we are going to give your flu shot today" instead of, "would you like your flu shot?").
- Ask patients about any questions or concerns they have and request their permission to share facts.
- Address misinformation by sharing key facts and not repeating the myth as this may reinforce it.
- Give your strong recommendation as clients see you as a trusted source.

For more information about the key principles and talking tips to use with clients, visit [durham.ca/hcp tools and guidance documents - immunization and vaccines](https://www.durham.ca/hcp/tools-and-guidance-documents-immunization-and-vaccines).

## More information

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines visit [www.durham.ca/covidvaccines](https://www.durham.ca/covidvaccines).

Individuals may receive COVID-19 vaccination at select pharmacy locations (visit <https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/>) or individuals can book an appointment at Durham Region Health Department community immunization clinics by visiting [www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment](https://www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment) or by calling the appointment booking line 1-888-444-5113.

For more information on the 2023-2024 influenza season visit [www.durham.ca/hcp](https://www.durham.ca/hcp), [durham.ca/flu](https://www.durham.ca/flu) and [ontario.ca/influenza](https://www.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 31, 2023

