



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Influenza Vaccine Available for High-Risk Individuals & Healthcare Workers

Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) has reported its first four community-acquired cases of influenza. Accordingly, we encourage everyone to continue to practice public health measures including hand hygiene, physical distancing, and staying home and masking when sick. Eligible populations should receive the influenza vaccine as soon as possible. **Influenza vaccines are now available to order for high-risk individuals and healthcare workers.**

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

- All pregnant women.
- People who are residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities.
- People who are ≥ 65 years of age.
- All children 6 months to 4 years of age.
- Indigenous peoples.
- Adults or children 6 months of age and over 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 (due to underlying disease, therapy, or both).
 - Renal disease.
 - Anemia or hemoglobinopathy.
 - Neurologic or neurodevelopment conditions.
 - Morbid obesity (Body mass index of ≥ 40).
 - Children and adolescents (6 months to 18 years) undergoing treatment with acetylsalicylic acid for long periods.

New for the 2022-2023 Influenza Season

- Influenza vaccine orders will be placed **online** at durham.ca/OrderInfluenzaVaccines.
- Orders can be picked up at the Health Department's Whitby or Port Perry office.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

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



Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Available to Order for 2022/2023

Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)		
Vaccine Product	FluLaval Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent
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	≥ 6 months
Most Common Allergens	^a Egg protein ^b Thimerosal	^a Egg protein ^b Thimerosal

	High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)	Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-Adj)
Vaccine Product	Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent	Fluad®
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	≥ 65 years
Most Common Allergens	^a Egg protein	^a Egg protein Kanamycin Neomycin

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

^bThimerosal is present in multidose vials.

Co-Administration

Influenza vaccines may be administered at the same time, before, or after other vaccines including COVID-19 vaccines in individuals ≥ 5 years of age. It is recommended to administer the vaccines in separate limbs or separate the injection sites by at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) if administration is in the same muscle. Currently, there are no studies on the co-administration of Shingrix® with Fluad® or Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent. With Fluad®, it is unknown how the adjuvants may interact with Shingrix®.

Influenza vaccines should **NOT** be co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines in individuals 6 months to 5 years of age. It is advised to wait 14 days between vaccine products to prevent mistakenly connecting an adverse event to one vaccine or the other.

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Ordering

At the beginning of the influenza season (early to mid-October), the Ministry of Health distributes influenza vaccines in smaller quantities to ensure equitable distribution. Therefore:

- Orders may be adjusted, and products substituted based on site specific 2021/2022 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.

Please place online orders for a **one-month supply** by visiting durham.ca/OrderInfluenzaVaccines. **Attestation that cold chain has been maintained since the last vaccine order is required at the time of ordering.** DRHD will audit temperature logs of randomly selected sites each week. Please be prepared to provide updated temperature logs if requested.

Please 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).

Testing for Influenza

As a reminder, Public Health Ontario laboratory testing will be consistent with last year's approach to [multiplex respiratory virus PCR \(MRVP\)](#) testing and will be available for:

1. Symptomatic children (less than 18 years) seen in the Emergency Department (ED)
2. All symptomatic hospitalized patients (ward and ICU/CCU)
3. The first four symptomatic patient specimens in a respiratory outbreak
4. Symptomatic patients tested in institutional settings (non-outbreak) when ordered on the PHO Laboratory requisition.

For more information please visit durham.ca/flu or ontario.ca/influenza.

October 6, 2022

