

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: December 10, 2020

RE: Additional influenza vaccine products

QUICK FACTS

- The Ministry of Health has procured additional supplies of influenza vaccine to support high demand.
- A limited supply of **quadrivalent FluMist (Q-LAIV)** is being distributed as part of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). It is publicly funded for individuals **2 to 59 years of age**.
- Starting the week of December 14th, a quadrivalent inactivated vaccine called **Influsplit Tetra** will be distributed in pre-filled syringes. This German-labelled vaccine is comparable to FluLavalTetra.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- FluMist will have a US label and a short expiry date (February 4, 2021). Ensure that you prioritize administration of this product to avoid wastage.
- FluMist is supplied in a single use intranasal sprayer containing 0.2mL. Give 0.1 mL in each nostril.
- FluMist is interchangeable with quadrivalent injectable vaccine when initiating or completing a primary 2-dose series for children aged 2 to 8.
- When administering FluMist, immunizers need to wear a medical mask, eye protection and gloves because of an increased likelihood of contact with a client's mucous membranes and bodily fluids. Gloves must be changed between clients and hand hygiene performed after gloves are removed.
- Influsplit Tetra will be distributed with a [customer letter](#) from the manufacturer outlining the ingredients and comparisons to FluLavalTetra.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- FluMist and Influsplit Tetra provide protection against 4 common strains of influenza virus.
- Some individuals should not receive FluMist, including pregnant women, children under 2 years, adults over 59 years, individuals with severe asthma or a weakened immune system, and children on long-term aspirin containing medications.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ministry of Health FluMist Q&A for Health Care Providers](#)
- [Health Canada FluMist letter](#)
- [GSK Influsplit Tetra 2020-2021](#)
- [NACI 2020-2021 Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Influenza Vaccine - Halton Information for Physicians](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.