

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: September 22, 2020

RE: Universal Influenza Immunization Program

**QUICK FACTS**

- Influenza vaccine will be delivered to providers in early October; information is outlined in the [2020-2021 National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine](#)
- Influenza vaccine is particularly recommended for those at higher risk of influenza-associated morbidity (e.g. pregnant women, those with chronic conditions, age 65 and older), and those at risk of transmitting the virus to high risk individuals (e.g. health care workers). A complete list is available on the NACI website and can be accessed [here](#).

**KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**

- Distribution of vaccine is based on product availability and your clinic’s previous usage and wastage.
- Public Health will be reaching out to providers individually to confirm details for the first auto-shipment.
- Influenza vaccine will be available by [on-line order](#) after an initial allotment is delivered to your office.
- Paper/faxed order forms will no longer be accepted.
- All orders must be accompanied by your vaccine fridge temperature log.

Vaccine products available through the UIIP for the 2020-2021 influenza season	Eligibility in Ontario
Standard-dose quadrivalent inactivated injectable (QIV - FluLaval®Tetra or Fluzone Quadrivalent®)	≥ 6 months
High-dose trivalent inactivated injectable (high-dose TIV - Fluzone® High-Dose)	≥ 65 years
<b>Note:</b> Fluzone® High-Dose will be prioritized to patients in long-term care/retirement homes but will also be available to hospitals and primary care providers and in pharmacies.	

**KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS**

- Persons 65 years and older may receive either high-dose TIV or standard-dose QIV. However, it is recommend that they receive high-dose TIV as it provides higher protection against Influenza A(H3N2) which is the predominant strain seen in this age group.
- FluMist® (intranasal spray) is not available in the UIIP this year but is available for purchase.
- Children age 6 months to 9 years receiving influenza vaccine for the first time need two doses given four weeks apart.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Guidance for Influenza vaccine delivery in the presence of COVID-19](#)

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](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA) FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.