

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

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

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

DATE: December 19, 2024

RE: Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent Vaccine Has Been Fully Distributed and Holiday Closure

QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health has distributed all doses of Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent (QIV-HD) influenza vaccine that we received this season.
- Both Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent (QIV-HD) and Fluad® Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated (TIV-adj) vaccines are preferentially recommended for people 65 years of age and older.
- If QIV-HD and TIV-adj vaccines are not available, any available age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used. Vaccination should not be delayed while waiting for a specific product.
- Halton Region's administrative offices will be closed from Tuesday, December 24, 2024, to Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Vaccines will not be distributed during this time. Refer to the [Vaccine Distribution Schedule](#) for further details.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Influenza Vaccines

- Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent (QIV-HD) is no longer available for ordering this influenza season. Submitted orders for QIV-HD will be substituted with Fluad® (TIV-adj).
- Fluad® (TIV-adj) is only indicated for persons 65 years of age and older. It includes an adjuvant that is intended to improve the immune response to the vaccine. This is important because older adults may not have as strong of an immune response to the influenza vaccine as younger individuals do. Both QIV-HD and TIV-adj appear to provide better protection compared to QIV standard dose
- Fluad® is designed to protect against three strains of the influenza virus: two influenza A viruses and one influenza B virus. Given there have been no confirmed naturally occurring B/Yamagata lineage virus detections since March 2020, the additional B/Yamagata lineage strain found in the QIV-HD is no longer warranted but continues to be offered in some formulations.
- As per the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#), QIV-HD and TIV-adj vaccines should be offered, when available, over QIV influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older. If a preferred product is not available, any of the available age-appropriate influenza vaccines should be used.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Older adults may not have as strong of an immune response to the influenza vaccine as younger individuals do.
- QIV-HD and TIV-adj both appear to provide better protection compared to QIV standard dose, but all age-appropriate flu vaccines protect against the flu.
- The most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated. Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular product.
- Individuals 6 months of age and older (without contraindications) can get their flu vaccine with the COVID-19 vaccine.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [2024/2025 Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\), Ministry of Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, Ministry of Health](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.