

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are now available for the general population

FROM:

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Key Messages:

- The influenza and XBB COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone 6 months of age and older.
- Co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines whenever possible is encouraged.
- Due to increased volume of order requests, influenza vaccine orders can take up to 4 weeks to process.
- Influenza vaccines are delivered for free for a limited time.
- Physicians can onboard to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their patients.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines now available for the general population

As of October 30th, the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone 6 months of age and older.

Co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines whenever possible is encouraged. They can be given simultaneously (i.e., same day), or at any time from each other.

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

Orders for the influenza vaccine can be placed at: <https://peelregion.ca/health/professionals/V-07-699.htm>

Influenza Products by Age Group

| Age Group | FluLaval® Tetra (QIV) | Fluzone® Quadrivalent (QIV) | Fluzone® High-Dose (QIV-HD) | Fluad® (TIV-adj) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ≥ 6 months to 64 years | ✓ | ✓ | Not applicable | |
| ≥65 years | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

QIV = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine
QIV-HD = Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine - High-dose
TIV-adj = Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine-adjuvanted

Influenza Vaccines for Adults ≥65 years of age

There is evidence to support the use of QIV-HD product, where available, in adults ≥ 65 years of age as it provides better protection against influenza compared to the QIV product. However, the QIV, QIV-HD and TIV-adj all protect against influenza, and the most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated.

Peel Public Health (PPH) has distributed all allocated doses of QIV-HD and TIV-adj to high-risk settings and primary care providers. Additional supply will not be available to order for the remainder of the 2023-2024 respiratory season. **Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular influenza product.**

Influenza Vaccine Orders

- Flu vaccine orders typically take approximately 3 to 4 weeks for processing.
- Orders are filled based on product availability. To ensure all practices in Peel have equitable access to flu vaccine types, order restrictions may occur and product substitutions can be expected.
- Order the flu vaccine based on your fridge capacity and booked client appointments. Orders may be reduced based on fridge capacity and provincial or health unit stock levels.
- The online influenza order form requires you to select the days of the week that you or your staff will NOT be available to receive your delivery.
- Please ensure staff are on site to receive your vaccine order on your scheduled delivery day.
- Submit temperature logs as requested, at the time of ordering. Missing logs will prevent us from filling your order. Send by email: VMPIOrderRequests@peelregion.ca or fax to 905-565-9874.

FREE Influenza Vaccine Delivery

PPH is providing free influenza vaccine delivery for a limited time. Once this period has ended, orders can be

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picked up at the regular pick-up locations or delivered through the paid vaccine delivery program.

Please ensure staff are on site to receive your vaccine order on your selected day(s), as missed deliveries cost \$29.50 plus tax. Any missed deliveries must be picked up at our main office, 7120 Hurontario Street.

Note: Distribution of other vaccine orders will continue through your regular pick-up location or the paid vaccine delivery program.

Review the **Flu Vaccine Supply and Distribution FAQ (2023-2024)** for more information at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/pdfs/2023/2023-2024-influenza-vaccine-supply-and-distribution-faq.pdf>

Please email any questions to VMPIOrderRequests@peelregion.ca. We will respond to your questions within 2 business days (excluding weekends and holidays).

Influenza vaccine resources:

- 2023/2024 UIIP Overview and Resources <https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/>
- Information for the 2023/2024 Influenza Season https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/docs/flu_uiip_HCP_QA_2023-24.pdf
- Information for individuals 6 months to 64 years https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/docs/flu_uiip_6mo-64yrs_2023-24.pdf
- Information for individuals ≥ 65 years of age https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/uiip/docs/flu_uiip_65yrs_older_2023-24.pdf

COVID-19 Vaccines

The XBB COVID-19 vaccine is now available for individuals 6 months of age and older.

Peel Public Health is only offering the mRNA COVID-19 XBB vaccines, which is the recommended product for this fall by NACI and the Ministry of Health. Bivalent vaccines are no longer available to order for our community partners or at PPH clinics.

Individuals who are not able or willing to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be offered a Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. The Novavax XBB vaccine, which is an adjuvanted recombinant protein vaccine, is currently under review by Health Canada. NACI guidance on the XBB formulation of Novavax is anticipated after authorization.

Novavax will only be available at select pharmacies in Peel. Locations are listed at: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/covid-19/>

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is moving away from using the terms 'primary series' and 'booster dose(s)'. It now refers to an individual's vaccination status as 'not previously vaccinated' and 'previously vaccinated'.

A dose of the XBB vaccine is recommended if it has been 6 months from the last dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later). To accommodate individual health and personal factors that may put the individual at higher risk, a dose may be administered at a minimum interval of 3 months.

Eligible individuals can book appointments using the provincial booking system or through participating pharmacies and primary care clinics.

For more information on booking appointments, refer patients to our website: <https://peelregion.ca/health/vaccinations/covid-19/>

COVID-19 Vaccination Onboarding and Ordering

Physicians can onboard to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their patients at: <https://peelregion.ca/health/professionals/vaccines/covid19-clinics/>

Onboarded physician offices can order COVID-19 vaccines through the Peel Health Professional portal at: <https://peelregion.my.site.com/health/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fhealth%2Fs%2F>

Ministry COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources:

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/covid19_vaccine.aspx#immunizers