

# Publicly Funded Seasonal Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information for 2020-21

Updated November 4, 2020





# Highlights for 2020-21

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The inactivated high dose trivalent influenza vaccine (IIV3-HD) will again be offered to Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) residents 65 years and older. LTCFs include nursing homes and residential care facilities.

Nova Scotia has received a limited quantity of additional doses of the inactivated high dose trivalent influenza vaccine for the 2020-21 influenza season. **For 2020-2021** only, patients in hospital beds in Nova Scotia who are designated as *alternate level of care*, awaiting LTCF placement, and aged 65 years and older will be eligible for the inactivated high dose trivalent influenza vaccine.

The inactivated quadrivalent standard dose influenza vaccine (IIV4-SD) will be offered for all other individuals 6 months of age and older. This also includes all staff and those residents of LTCFs under 65 years of age.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Health Agency of Canada, in consultation with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Canadian Immunization Committee, has developed additional [Guidance on the use of influenza vaccine in the presence of COVID-19](#).

## Immunization Provider Accountabilities

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### Reporting

- All adverse events not normally expected (i.e. listed in the product monograph) that are temporally related to the administration of the vaccine need to be reported to local public health in accordance with [It's the Law: Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization](#)
- All cold chain breaks must be reported to the local Public Health office. Vaccine that is exposed to a cold chain break must be bagged, dated, labelled "Do not use" and refrigerated while waiting to receive direction from Public Health on the use of affected vaccines.

### Billing

- Physicians are to use MSI billing codes
- Pharmacists are to use pharmacy billing codes
- Other immunization providers are to complete aggregate data collection forms that are provided by and returned to Public Health. The forms can also be found in the '[Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Data Collection](#)' section of the [Surveillance Guidelines Forms](#) document

### Competency

Immunizers will follow their respective professional guidelines (e.g. NSCN, CPSNS, and NSCP) with respect to immunization competency and professional responsibility. Immunizers may need to be deemed competent by their employing agency or college to provide immunization.

## Safety

Epinephrine must be present during vaccine administration.

- Clients should be monitored for at least 15 minutes post-immunization (best practice recommendation). A shorter post-vaccination observation period, between 5 to 15 minutes after influenza immunization may be considered during the COVID-19 pandemic, but only during specific conditions which are outlined in the following document: [NACI's Recommendations on the Duration of Post-vaccination Observation Period for Influenza Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- Documentation of vaccine administration must include the lot number of the vaccine in case of recall or adverse event.

## Duty of Care/Role Model

Annual influenza immunization of health care workers is very important for reducing influenza-related morbidity and mortality among high risk groups and individuals to whom you provide care. All immunization providers should receive an annual influenza vaccine.

## Vaccine Products

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### Inactivated High-dose Trivalent Vaccine (IIV3-HD)

- The product used will be:
  - Fluzone® High-Dose (Sanofi Pasteur) – this product contains four times the virus antigen per strain in comparison to the standard-dose influenza vaccine. Evidence indicates better protection for those 65 years and older compared to the standard-dose influenza vaccine.
- The components of the vaccine include:
  - A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09 - like strain;
  - A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2) - like strain; and
  - B/Washington/02/2019 - like strain

### Inactivated Quadrivalent Vaccine (IIV4-SD)

- The products used will include:
  - Fluzone® Quadrivalent (Sanofi Pasteur)
  - Flulaval® Tetra (Glaxo Smith Kline [GSK])
  - Afluria® Tetra (Seqirus) – age indication 5 years and older
- The components of the vaccine include:
  - A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like strain;
  - A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like strain;
  - B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain from B/Yamagata lineage; and
  - B/Washington/02/2019-like strain from B/Victoria lineage

**Table: Characteristics of influenza vaccine products available in Nova Scotia for 2020–2021 season\***

<b>Product Name</b>	<b>Fluzone® High-Dose</b> (LTCF residents ≥ 65 years and hospitalized <i>alternate level of care</i> patients awaiting LTCF placement ≥ 65 years)	<b>Flulaval® Tetra</b>	<b>Fluzone® Quadrivalent</b>	<b>Afluria® Tetra</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Sanofi Pasteur</b>	<b>GlaxoSmithKline</b>	<b>Sanofi Pasteur</b>	<b>Seqirus</b>
<b>Vaccine Type</b>	IIV3-HD (high-dose, split virus inactivated, trivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)
<b>Route of Administration</b>	IM	IM	IM	IM
<b>Authorized Ages for Use</b>	65 years and older**	6 months and older	6 months and older	5 years and older
<b>Antigen Content for each vaccine strain</b>	60 µg HA/0.5 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose
<b>Adjuvant</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Formats Available in Nova Scotia</b>	Single dose pre-filled syringes	5 mL multi-dose vial	5 mL multi-dose vial	5 mL multi-dose vial
<b>Post-Puncture Shelf Life for Multi-Dose Vials</b>	Not applicable	28 days	Up to expiry date indicated on vial label	28 days
<b>Product Stability</b>	Store between +2°C to +8°C. Must not be frozen and must be protected from light.	Store between +2°C to +8°C. Must not be frozen and must be protected from light.	Store between +2°C to +8°C. Must not be frozen and must be protected from light.	Store between +2°C to +8°C. Must not be frozen and must be protected from light.
<b>Thimerosal</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Antibiotics (Traces)</b>	None	None	None	Yes (neomycin and polymyxin B)
<b>Egg protein (traces)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Adapted from: Appendix A, Table 4 of the [Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2020-21](#).

For further information refer to product monographs

\*\* Fluzone® High-Dose is available free for residents of Long Term Care Facilities 65 years and older and for 2020-21 only, 'alternate level of care' hospital patients awaiting LTCF placement aged 65 years and older

# Vaccine Ordering

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Immunization providers should initially order a two to four-week supply of influenza vaccine and continue to order monthly. Order only the amount you estimate you will use within the month. In order to ensure supplies are distributed equally across the province, initial orders may need to be reduced based on the quantity of vaccine received from the manufacturers. To minimize wastage, it is important to record current doses on hand in your practice on the order form when requesting new orders. **We encourage you to start immunizing as soon as you receive your vaccine supply.** Please try to first immunize people at greatest risk of influenza-related complications and those people who live with or care for them.

Seasonal influenza vaccine is sent from the manufacturer to the Nova Scotia Provincial Bio-Depot over a period of 6-8 weeks in varying quantities. Vaccine will be distributed from Public Health offices when available. It is critical for Public Health to manage the supply of vaccine to ensure equitable distribution to all immunization providers.

Every year, there are potential delays in vaccine development and distribution from vaccine manufacturers. In addition, distribution from the Provincial Bio-Depot takes a week to 10 days, so it is impossible for every provider to receive their supply at the exact same time. We ask for your patience and your help explaining the situation when clients ask why some providers have vaccine earlier than others.

Supply of inactivated high-dose trivalent vaccine (IIV3-HD) is available for LTCF residents 65 years of age and older and for 2020-2021, patients in hospital beds designated as *alternate level of care*, awaiting LTCF placement, and aged 65 years and older. Order forms for this vaccine will be sent by local public health to LTCFs and only those Pharmacies and Family Physicians identified by the LTCF that are responsible for the vaccine administration to residents. For those eligible patients in hospital, order forms will be sent by local public health to hospitals. Completed order forms should be faxed to local public health. Order forms will be reviewed and approved by Public Health and vaccine will be distributed accordingly.

Orders for the inactivated quadrivalent standard dose vaccine (IIV4-SD) product can be placed through the local public health office.

# Dosage and frequency of the influenza vaccines

As per the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Influenza 2020-21 statement, the dose for inactivated unadjuvanted influenza vaccine is 0.5 ml. **The dosing for ages 6 months – 23 months may differ from the product monograph.**

## Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Doses by Age, 2020-21

Age Group	IIV4-SD (Fluzone® or Flulaval® Tetra)	IIV4-SD (Afluria® Tetra)**	IIV3-HD (Fluzone® HD)	No. of Doses
6 months-8 years*	0.5 ml	<b>5 years and older only</b> - 0.5 ml	–	1 or 2*
5 years-8 years*	0.5 ml	0.5 ml	–	1 or 2*
9 years and older	0.5ml	0.5 ml	–	1
65 years and older <b>(LTCF residents and hospitalized alternate level of care patients awaiting LTCF placement)</b>	–	–	0.5 ml	1

\*The first year that a child younger than 9 years of age receives influenza vaccine, two doses at least 4 weeks apart are required. If a child less than 9 years of age has received at least one dose of any influenza vaccine in the past, only one dose is required this season.

\*\*There is no evidence on the efficacy, effectiveness, immunogenicity, or safety for the use of Afluria® Tetra in children <5 years of age, and Afluria® Tetra is not authorized for use in this age group in Canada.

If an individual eligible for inactivated high-dose trivalent influenza vaccine (IIV3-HD) refuses the vaccine, the individual must be made aware that the IIV3-HD provides better protection in individuals 65 years of age and older in comparison to the inactivated quadrivalent standard dose influenza vaccine (IIV4-SD). If an individual still refuses IIV3-HD, IIV4-SD should be offered.

LTCF residents 65 years and older and hospitalized *alternate level of care* patients awaiting LTCF placement 65 years and older who have received the IIV4-SD should not be re-immunized with the IIV3-HD.

## Influenza vaccine eligibility

Immunization against influenza is publicly funded and advised for all Nova Scotians 6 months and older. The vaccine is free of charge. As in previous years, those without a valid Nova Scotia health card are eligible to receive publicly funded influenza vaccine.

### Inactivated High-dose Trivalent Vaccine (IIV3-HD)

Residents of LTCFs, 65 years of age and older should be offered the IIV3-HD (Fluzone® High-Dose) product. For the purposes of IIV3-HD eligibility, LTCFs are nursing homes and residential care facilities. This also includes the Veterans Memorial Unit. Respite care clients 65 years of age and older admitted to LTCFs are only eligible to receive the IIV3-HD while in the LTCF.

**For 2020-2021**, patients in hospital beds designated as *alternate level of care*, awaiting LTCF placement, and aged 65 years and older should also be offered the IIV3-HD (Fluzone® High-Dose) product

Individuals 65 years or older who are not eligible for publicly funded IIV3-HD who wish to receive IIV3-HD may purchase the vaccine through a health care provider. Some health plans may cover the cost of the vaccine.

### Inactivated Quadrivalent Standard Dose Vaccine (IIV4-SD)

All other individuals should be offered the IIV4-SD product.

# Physician billing for influenza immunization

## MSI billing information for influenza (Flu) and polysaccharide pneumococcal (PC) vaccines:

Billing requires a health service code, a modifier, and a diagnostic code				
Immunization	Health Service Code	Modifier	MSUs	Diagnostic Code
Influenza	13.59L	RO=INFL	6.0	Select diagnostic code from the table below
	13.59L	RO=HDIN	6.0	
Pneumococcal	13.59L	RO=PNEU	6.0	
Patient Status			Diagnostic Codes	
			FLU	PC
Pregnant			V221	N/A
Males & non-pregnant females			V048	V066

## Provincial immunization tray fee:

Health Services Code	Description	MSUs
13.59M	Provincial immunization tray fee	1.5 per multiple (max 4/visit)

## Notes for billing:

- If one vaccine is administered but no associated office visit is billed (i.e. the sole purpose for the visit is the immunization), claim the immunization at a full fee of 6.0 MSUs.
- If two vaccines are administered at the same visit but no associated office visit is billed (i.e. the sole purpose for the visit is the immunization), claim for each immunization at a full fee of 6.0 MSUs each. Any subsequent injections after two will be paid at 50%.
- If one vaccine is administered in conjunction with a billed office visit, claim both the office visit and the immunization at full fee.
- For children less than 12 months of age, if a vaccine is administered in conjunction with a well-baby care visit, claim the well-baby care visit and the immunization.
- If two vaccines are administered in conjunction with a billed office visit, claim the office visit and the first injection can be claimed at full fee. All subsequent injections will be paid at 50%.

# Pharmacist billing for influenza immunization

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Pharmacy billing information provides data on pharmacist-administered vaccines as part of assessing overall vaccine coverage rates.

Fees for the administration of publicly funded influenza vaccine by pharmacists to Nova Scotia residents 2 years of age and over with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card are billed to the Department of Health and Wellness via the Pharmacare online adjudication system. The claim must contain the following in the patient's insurance field:

- Patient ID – the patient's Nova Scotia Health Card Number
- Carrier ID – NS

If a patient is already set up in the pharmacy system with Pharmacare coverage (e.g., Seniors' Pharmacare, Family Pharmacare), a separate patient file does not need to be created.

Claims must be submitted using the DIN of the vaccine administered to the patient, unless the patient is pregnant or is a child receiving a second vaccine dose. The following table provides direction related to submitting claims using a PIN for pregnant women or children receiving a second dose.

Claims are submitted with the administration fee in the professional fee field. Providers are not reimbursed for ingredient costs or markups for these claims as they are able to access publicly funded vaccine at no charge.

More details can be found within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs Pharmacists' Guide.

## Claims Submission Field Content for Pharmacist-Administered Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines

Claims Submission Field Content for Pharmacist-Administered Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines		
CPhA Claim Standard Field #	CPhA Claim Standard Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	<p><b>DINs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluzone® Quadrivalent MDV 02432730</li> <li>Fluzone Quadrivalent PFS 02420643</li> <li>FluLaval® Tetra 02420783</li> <li>Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent MDV 02473313 ** age indication of 5 years of age or older</li> <li>Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent PFS 02473283** age indication of 5 years of age or older</li> <li><b>Fluzone High-Dose 02445646</b> (Only for residents of LTCFs ≥ 65 years of age and hospitalized <i>alternate level of care</i> patients, awaiting LTCF placement ≥ 65 years of age)</li> </ul> <p><b>PIN for pregnant women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluzone® Quadrivalent 93899895</li> <li>FluLaval® Tetra 93899893</li> <li>Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent 96599953</li> </ul> <p><b>PIN for second dose for children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluzone® Quadrivalent 93899896</li> <li>FluLaval® Tetra 93899894</li> <li>Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent** 96599952 age indication of 5 years of age or older</li> </ul>
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Pharmacists prescriber ID
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	\$12.00

## More information on influenza vaccines

For more information on influenza vaccine, contact your local Public Health office. You may also check the following websites:

- Public Health Agency of Canada (NACI Statement): Canadian Immunization Guide Chapter on Influenza and Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2020-21
- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Immunize Canada
- Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19
- Guidance on the use of influenza vaccine in the presence of COVID-19
- Recommendations on the Duration of Post-vaccination Observation Period for Influenza Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic

