

Influenza Vaccine FAQs for HCPs

What strains are included in the influenza products this season?

- A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09 - like virus **(new this year)**
- A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2) - like virus
- B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage) - like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage) - like virus

How do I know which influenza vaccine product to offer if there are three different kinds?

Age	Eligibility based on age (only administer ONE)			Notes
	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Fluzone® HD	FluMist®	
<6 months				This age group is contraindicated; no influenza products should be offered
6 months – 23 months	X			
2 years – 17 years	X		X*	Children in this age group can be offered either product. *Ensure client has no contraindications to LAIV (FluMist)
18 years – 64 years	X		X*	All clients in this age group should be offered Inactivated Influenza vaccine (Quadrivalent). *Clients who are extremely needle phobic and between the ages of 2-59 years old may receive FluMist with special approval. Please contact the Yukon Immunization Program.
65 years and older	X	X*		*Clients in this age group should be offered Fluzone High Dose first. If not available, then offer Quadrivalent. Do not administer both.

What is the dosing schedule for influenza vaccines?

The influenza vaccine should be offered each influenza season (i.e. may not be one full year between doses). Children who are between ages 6 mos to 8 years and have never received an influenza vaccine in their lifetime, will require a one time booster 4 weeks after dose 1. See Section 8 of the Yukon Immunization Manual for guidance.

What is Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS)?

ORS is defined as the presence of bilateral red eyes and one or more associated respiratory symptoms (cough, wheeze, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, or sore throat) that starts within 24 hours of vaccination, with or without facial edema. Individuals who have experienced ORS without lower respiratory tract symptoms may be safely revaccinated with influenza vaccine. Individuals who experienced ORS with lower respiratory tract symptoms must be approved by the Yukon Immunization Program.

What if my client has an egg allergy?

NACI has concluded that egg allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza using any influenza vaccine, including egg-based vaccines and LAIV, without prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose, irrespective of a past severe reaction to egg and without any particular consideration, including vaccination setting. The amount of trace ovalbumin allowed in influenza vaccines that are authorized for use in Canada is associated with a low risk of adverse events.

What if my client recently received a COVID-19 vaccine, or wants to get one at the same time as the influenza vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered with other vaccine products. If giving the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time, administer one vaccine in the left deltoid and the other in the right deltoid.

What if my client reports an adverse event from a previous vaccine? Is it safe to vaccinate?

All adverse events must be reported to the Yukon Immunization Program for further review. If a client reports an AEFI related to a previous dose of influenza vaccine, consult the Yukon Immunization Program prior to administering another influenza vaccine. If a client reports an AEFI related to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the client is safe to receive the influenza vaccine. Clients who report a history of SIRVA (should injury related to vaccine administration) should receive their vaccine in the opposite arm.