

2023/2024 UNIVERSAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (UIIP)

FOR YORK REGION UIIP-PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2023

Flu Vaccine Distribution and Ordering

- York Region Public Health (YRPH) will not be distributing publicly funded flu vaccines to UIIP-participating pharmacies.
- Pharmacies must order publicly funded flu vaccines from Ministry of Health-assigned distributors (e.g., SDM, McKesson).
- First auto-shipments are expected to be delivered between October 10th and October 23rd.
- Pharmacies can begin to reorder from assigned distributors on October 23rd.
- Refer to the pharmacy's UIIP approval letter from the Ministry of Health for information on assigned distributors and the number of doses that will be received in the first auto-shipment.
- To minimize vaccine wastage, order small quantities of vaccines on an as-needed basis and consider available storage space in the YRPH-inspected vaccine refrigerator.

Adverse Storage Conditions (ASC)

If any publicly funded vaccines are exposed to temperatures below +2.0°C and/or above +8.0°C at any time (e.g., during transport, in storage), immediately report to YRPH at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74065 (24/7, including statutory holidays)

Do not administer or discard the exposed vaccines until YRPH has completed an ASC investigation and vaccine viability assessment.

Mandatory Weekly Temperature Log Submissions to YRPH

Pharmacies must submit vaccine refrigerator temperature logs to YRPH every Wednesday before 11:59 p.m. EST.

E-mail: coldchain@york.ca

(Recommended and preferred method as it will provide receipt notice)

Fax: 905-830-0578

(No receipt notice)

YRPH reviews all temperature log submissions to ensure that vaccine refrigerators storing publicly funded vaccines are maintained between +2.0°C and +8.0°C. **Failure to submit weekly temperature logs on the due date and/or submitting incomplete temperature documentation will result in suspension of vaccine ordering for a minimum of seven (7) days.**

Submissions must include temperature recordings for each day the pharmacy operates (from the previous Wednesday to the current Wednesday) and must follow the below requirements:

- Document temperatures exactly as shown on the thermometer's display screen, to one digit after the decimal (i.e., to the tenth decimal place).
- Document the current, maximum, and minimum temperatures twice daily including the date, time, and recorder's initials.
- Clear your digital thermometer's memory after each temperature recording.
- Use only blue or black ink. Do not use white-out or write over any temperature recordings.
- Ensure that the pharmacy's name and holding point code (Example: YOR_NW_01234) are clearly indicated on your temperature log prior to each submission.
- Use a strikethrough to indicate the days that the pharmacy is closed, if applicable.

Immunization Priority

Administration of flu vaccines is to be prioritized for:

- ✓ Individuals at [high risk of flu complications and hospitalization](#)
 - ✓ Health care workers and first responders
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- Flu vaccines may be offered to the general population starting October 30, 2023.
 - Do not book immunization appointments before receiving vaccines in case of any delivery delays.
 - Large-scale community vaccination clinics should be planned for November to ensure there is an adequate vaccine supply.

Vaccine Administration in Pharmacies

- Injection-trained pharmacy professionals can administer publicly funded flu vaccines to individuals two years of age and older.
- Only doses of publicly funded vaccines that were ordered for and received by the pharmacy of the same location can be administered by the pharmacy's injection-trained professionals.
- Publicly funded vaccines must not be shared or transferred between other healthcare providers or pharmacies, including other locations of the pharmacy.
- Injection-trained pharmacy professionals must not administer publicly funded vaccines that were ordered or received by another organization.

Vaccine Administration Outside of Pharmacies

- Pharmacists may administer flu vaccine to individuals outside of the pharmacy but within the boundaries of their local public health unit except to hospital in-patients and licensed long-term care home residents.
- Pharmacists who will be administering flu vaccine to residents of retirement homes, congregate care settings, other vulnerable population facilities or homebound clients must bring their own supply of flu vaccine.
- While administering vaccines outside of the pharmacy, ensure that vaccines are transported and stored in a Ministry-approved cooler with the appropriate packing materials and [packing configuration](#) to ensure temperatures within +2.0°C and +8.0°C are maintained for the duration of the clinic.

Multi-dose Vial Format

The majority of QIV flu vaccines are provided in the multi-dose vial format. Multi-dose vials of the vaccine contain 10 doses per vial. Ensure the use of [best practice standards](#) to maximize the use of an entire multi-dose vial and prevent vaccine-related medication errors.

- Label the multi-dose vial with the date it was first punctured.
- **Any doses remaining in a punctured multi-dose vial must be discarded according to the manufacturer's expiration date or within 28 days (see the product leaflet), whichever occurs first.**
- Reduce vaccine wastage by following the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

Vaccine Wastage

The Ministry of Health and YRPH are committed to minimizing vaccine wastage. Pharmacies must make every effort to reduce vaccine wastage by following the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

During the UIIP campaign, if doses remaining at a pharmacy exceed the stipulated threshold set by the Ministry of Health, the pharmacy will be suspended from ordering vaccines until the remaining doses fall below that threshold. Please refer to the UIIP approval letter from the Ministry of Health for more details and pharmacies' flu vaccine administration and wastage data from the 2022/23 UIIP campaign.

UIIP Resources

Visit York Region's Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals [webpage](#).

[Ministry of Health](#) 2023/2024 UIIP implementation documents:

- [Health Care Provider Qs & As: Information for the 2023/2024 Influenza Season](#)
- [Health Care Provider Qs & As: Information for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age](#)
- [Health Care Provider Qs & As: Information for Individuals ≥65 years of age](#)

For more information, contact York Region Vaccine Inventory Program via telephone at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or e-mail to vaccineinventory@york.ca