

Publicly Funded Seasonal Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers 2021-22

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Publicly Funded Seasonal Inactivated Influenza
Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers 2021
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Highlights for 2021-22

Nova Scotia residents 65 years and older living in LTCF including nursing homes, residential care facilities, and patients in hospital beds in Nova Scotia designated as *alternate level of care* awaiting LTCF placement will be offered **inactivated high dose quadrivalent influenza vaccine (IIV4-HD)**

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.

New this year

Ordering: Beginning early October, the NS BioDepot will begin accepting orders for the **influenza vaccines** through the online ordering portal **Shopify**, which launched in August 2021 for ordering COVID-19 vaccines. NSHA Public Health will be sending information to providers in September regarding how to access Shopify to ensure influenza vaccine orders can be placed in a timely manner. Immunization providers must enter a temperature log for their vaccine fridges prior to ordering influenza vaccine. This shift will mean **faxed vaccine order forms will no longer be accepted for influenza vaccine**.

The new ordering system for influenza vaccines is an overall improvement to the ordering process for everyone involved, particularly providers. It will facilitate the advancement of inventory management practices, equitable distribution of vaccines and improve vaccine ordering flexibility, transparency, and accuracy.

The Shopify process will address the problems experienced with vaccine supply and ordering mismatch. Although global supply chain issues may still impact the supply of vaccine in the province, communications will be shared with providers if this results in reduced vaccine allocated to practices. It is recommended that providers do not schedule their flu shot clinics until their vaccine supply is confirmed through Shopify.

Reporting: Providers will provide information to Nova Scotia Health Public Health every two weeks on influenza immunizations, vaccine inventory, vaccines lent to or received from other providers and wastage through use of electronic **Smart Sheets**.

Coadministration of COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has advised that COVID-19 vaccines may be given simultaneously with, or at any time before or after any other inactivated vaccines. Individuals can receive COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine (including Flu Mist) at the same time. Pneumococcal vaccine can also be given according to the Nova Scotia Vaccine Schedule at the same time as COVID-19 and Influenza. For more information see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/summary-updates-september-28-2021.html>

Target Groups for Influenza Vaccination:

The National Advisory on Immunization (NACI) recommends groups for whom influenza vaccination is particularly recommended. These include:

People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization:

- All children 6-59 months of age
- Adults and children with specific chronic health conditions (see NACI statement for details) <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2021-47/issue-9-september-2021/seasonal-influenza-vaccine-statement-2021-2022.html>

- All pregnant women
- People of any age who are residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities
- Adults 65 years or older, and
- Indigenous peoples*
- People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk
- Health care and other care providers
- Household contacts both adults and children of individuals at high risk, whether or not the individual has been vaccinated
- Those providing regular care to children 0-59 months (in or out of the home)
- Those who provide services within closed or relatively closed settings to people at high risk

Others

- People who provide essential community services
- People in direct contact with poultry infected with avian influenza during culling operations

**There is a higher risk of flu-related complications and/or hospitalization for Indigenous peoples. This is a result of multiple factors, including a high occurrence of chronic health conditions, reduced access to health care, and other social and environmental factors such as poor housing conditions*

Immunization Provider Accountabilities

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 as found at https://novascotia.ca/dhw/CDPC/documents/13087_AdverseEventsPoster_En.pdf
- All cold chain breaks must be reported to the local Public Health office. Vaccines 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 use of the affected vaccines.

Immunization Entry into Electronic Documentation

Electronic Medical Record:

Public Health uses the immunization data from Electronic Medical Records (EMR) so that vaccine records can be accessed, and vaccine coverage information be used effectively as a surveillance tool. Influenza immunization reporting assists Public Health with vaccine inventory management and vaccine coverage surveillance. The quality of an individual's immunization record and public health data analysis rely on many factors including the accurate entry using the Public Health approved vaccine list.

Public Health's digital health solution, Panorama, is configured to only accept EMR immunization records using **"Immunizing Agents"** as the vaccine name. For example: Immunization Providers giving Influenza using the EMR need to select **Influenza-quad** not manufacturer's name or customized names such as 'Afluria Tetra' or 'Flu vaccine 2021'. This includes both High Dose and Standard Dose vaccines.

The following list is used to map public health vaccine names to the EMR: [EMR-Panorama Vaccine List](#). Additional resources are found at the following link: <https://support.novascotia.ca/applications/panorama>. If you have questions related to the entry of influenza vaccines (and all vaccines), please email them to the Public Health Information Systems team, Department of Health and Wellness: panorama@novascotia.ca

Billing

- Physicians are to use MSI billing codes
- Pharmacies are to use pharmacy billing codes
- Other immunization providers must complete aggregate data collection forms 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 on page 4](#).

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 must be monitored for at least 15 minutes post-immunization. For further guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic please see: [Recommendations on the Duration of the Post-vaccination Observation Period for Influenza Vaccination during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Canada.ca](#)
- 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 an important mechanism to reduce 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

Inactivated High-dose Quadrivalent Vaccine (IIV4-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/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like strain [A/Victoria/2570/2019, IVR-215]
 - A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like strain [A/Tasmania/503/2020, IVR-221]
 - B/Washington/02/2019-like strain [B/Washington/02/2019, wild type]
 - B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain [B/Phuket/3073/2013, wild type]

Inactivated Standard Dose Quadrivalent Vaccine (IIV4-SD)

- The products used will include:
 - Fluzone® Quadrivalent (Sanofi Pasteur)
 - Flulaval® Tetra (GlaxoSmithKline [GSK])
 - Afluria® Tetra (Seqirus) – **age indication 5 years and older**
- The components of the vaccine include:
 - A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1) pdm09-like strain [A/Victoria/2570/2019, IVR-215]
 - A/Cambodia/e0826360/2020 (H3N2)-like strain [A/Tasmania/503/2020, IVR-221]
 - B/Washington/02/2019-like strain [B/Washington/02/2019, wild type]
 - B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain [B/Phuket/3073/2013, wild type]

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

Product Name	Fluzone® High-Dose (LTCF residents ≥ 65 years only)	Flulaval® Tetra	Fluzone® Quadrivalent	Afluria® Tetra
Manufacturer	Sanofi Pasteur	GlaxoSmithKline	Sanofi Pasteur	Seqirus
Vaccine Type	IIV4-HD (high-dose, split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)	IIV4-SD (split virus inactivated, quadrivalent)
Route of Administration	IM	IM	IM	IM
Authorized Ages for Use	65 years and older**	6 months and older	6 months and older	5 years and older
Antigen Content for each vaccine strain	60 µg HA/0.7 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose	15 µg HA/0.5 mL dose
Adjuvant	None	None	None	None
Formats Available in Nova Scotia	Single dose pre-filled syringes	5 mL multi-dose vial	5 mL multi-dose vial	5 mL multi-dose vial
Post-Puncture Shelf Life for Multi-Dose Vials	Not applicable	28 days	Up to expiry date indicated on vial label	28 days
Product Stability	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.
Thimerosal	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Antibiotics (Traces)	None	None	None	Yes (neomycin and polymyxin B)
Egg protein (traces)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Adapted from: Appendix A of the *Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2021-22*. For further information refer to product monographs

** Fluzone® High-Dose Quadrivalent is available free for residents of Long-Term Care Facilities 65 years and older and for 2021-2022, 'alternate level of care' hospital patients awaiting LTCF placement aged 65 years and older

Vaccine Ordering

Influenza vaccine is usually available from Public Health in the NSHA in mid-late October (this is dependent upon national vaccine production, licensing, and distribution procedures).

- The NS Bio Depot has shifted to an easier and more efficient way of ordering **influenza vaccines** by introducing a new online ordering portal through Shopify. In collaboration with partners, this shift is in response to COVID-19 vaccine rollout, contributions from partners and is based on lessons learned throughout the pandemic. The new influenza vaccine ordering process will facilitate the advancement of inventory management practices, equitable distribution of vaccines, and improve vaccine ordering flexibility, transparency, and accuracy.
- Vaccine, providers are required to upload their vaccine fridge temperature log prior to placing their order.
- Beginning late September/early October, Shopify will be used for placing orders online for influenza vaccine. **After this time, faxed vaccine order forms will no longer be accepted.** This change will save time and provide a new level of organization when it comes to planning immunization clinics.

All influenza vaccines can be ordered via Shopify:

- Inactivated high-dose quadrivalent vaccine (IIV4-HD)
- Standard dose quadrivalent vaccine (IIV4-SD)

Immunization providers will complete an online **Smart Sheet** every two weeks indicating the number of doses administered including lot numbers, (extra or reduced doses obtained from vials), and the number of doses they have on hand.

A supply of **inactivated high-dose quadrivalent vaccine (IIV4-HD)** will be available for LTCF residents 65 years of age and older and for 2021-2022 patients in hospital designated as alternate level of care, awaiting LTCF placement, and aged 65 years and older. Only LTCF, Pharmacies and Family Physicians identified by LTCF as responsible for delivering high dose quadrivalent vaccine and hospitals with ALC patients are eligible to order HD Influenza vaccine through Shopify.

All inactivated **standard dose quadrivalent vaccine (IIV4-SD) orders** will be placed through the Shopify online ordering system.

Providers will need to make appointments to pick up their influenza vaccine due to COVID-19 protocols. Please review the Immunization Toolkit (located at <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/immunization-forms>) for information on transporting biologicals to ensure you have all the required equipment when you pick up your vaccine. (e.g. a hard sided cooler which seals properly, ice pack and an insulating layer to ensure the ice does not lay on the vaccine product). Public health can only release vaccine in accordance with this protocol.

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, 2021-22

Age Group	IIV4-SD (Fluzone® or Flulaval® Tetra)	IIV4-SD (Afluria® Tetra)**	IIV4-HD (Fluzone® HD)	No. of Doses
6 months - 8 years*	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 (LTCF residents and hospitalized alternate level of care patients awaiting LTCF placement)	–	–	0.7 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 quadrivalent influenza vaccine (IIV4-HD) refuses the vaccine, the individual must be made aware that the IIV4-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 IIV4-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 IIV4 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 Quadrivalent Vaccine (IIV4-HD)

Nova Scotia residents 65 years and older living in LTCF including nursing homes, residential care facilities, and patients in hospital in Nova Scotia designated as *alternate level of care* awaiting LTCF placement will be offered inactivated high dose **quadrivalent** influenza vaccine (IIV4-HD).

Individuals 65 years or older who are not eligible for publicly funded IIV4-HD who wish to receive IIV4-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%.

Pharmacy billing for influenza immunization

Pharmacy billing information provides data on vaccines administered by a pharmacy as part of assessing overall vaccine coverage rates.

Administration of Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Provided by a Pharmacy

Eligibility:

All individuals 2 years of age and over can have publicly funded influenza vaccine provided by a pharmacy. As the publicly funded vaccine is available free of charge, no individual is to be charged for the vaccine.

Only residents with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card Number are eligible to have the influenza vaccine administration fee billed to DHW. There are no co-payments or deductibles associated with the administration of the influenza vaccine with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card number. All other individuals are responsible for paying the applicable administration fee.

Fees for the administration of publicly funded influenza vaccine by a pharmacy 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 Pharmacy Guide.

Claims Submission Field Content for Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Administered by a Pharmacy

Claims Submission Field Content for Publicly Funded Influenza Vaccines Administered by a Pharmacy		
CPhA Claim Standard Field #	CPhA Claim Standard Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	<p>DINs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluzone® Quadrivalent MDV 02432730 Fluzone Quadrivalent PFS 02420643 FluLaval® Tetra 02420783 Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent MDV 02473313 ** age indication of 5 years of age or older Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent PFS 02473283** age indication of 5 years of age or older Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent 02500523 (Only for residents of LTCFs or ALC ≥ 65 years of age) <p>PIN for pregnant women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluzone® Quadrivalent 93899895 FluLaval® Tetra 93899893 Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent 96599953 <p>PIN for second dose for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluzone® Quadrivalent 93899896 FluLaval® Tetra 93899894 Afluria® Tetra Quadrivalent** 96599952 age indication of 5 years of age or older
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	\$12.55 until March 31, 2022 \$12.70 effective April 1, 2022

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 2021-22
- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Immunize Canada

