



## 2024-25 Influenza Program Screening Questions

1. Are you sick today? Do you have a fever?

**No:** Immunize

**Yes:** Defer immunization.

2. Do you have any severe allergies?

**No:** Immunize

**Yes:** Refer to the MHO for direction if the client has a severe allergy to any of the Influenza vaccine components listed in the quick reference and information sheets.

### \* Egg Allergies:

- **Individuals with an egg allergy may be safely vaccinated with inactivated, injectable flu vaccine.** After careful review, NACI has concluded that egg-allergic individuals may be vaccinated against influenza **using injectable Trivalent or Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine** without prior influenza vaccine skin test and with the full dose, regardless of a past severe reaction to egg and without any particular consideration including immunization setting.
- However, **if the client has had a previous anaphylactic reaction to eggs**, then please encourage them to receive the flu vaccine at a public health office that is in closer proximity to an acute care centre.
- **Please consult the MHO or Regional Immunization Coordinator if there is strong concern about proceeding with the recommendation above and the individual is at risk of complications from influenza.**

3. Have you ever had a severe reaction to the influenza vaccine, any of its components or other vaccines?

**No:** Immunize

**Yes:** Individuals who developed an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of influenza vaccine should **not** receive a further dose. Consult with the MHO or Regional Immunization Coordinator for direction if the client has had a severe reaction following a dose of another vaccine.

**Symptoms of anaphylaxis** may include rash/hives, facial flushing, difficulty breathing, coughing with or without shortness of breath, "lump" in the throat, vomiting/diarrhea.

4. Are you currently seeing a doctor or specialist regarding any new onset neurological problems or have you developed *Guillain-Barre syndrome following a previous dose of influenza vaccine*?

**No:** Immunize

**Yes:** People with unstable or undiagnosed neurological disorders require consult with the MHO or Regional Immunization Coordinator. Individuals who have developed Guillain-Barre syndrome in the 6 weeks following a previous dose of influenza vaccine should not receive a further dose.

### **Signs and symptoms of Guillain-Barre syndrome may include:**

Prickling, "pins and needles" sensations in your fingers, toes or both; Weakness or tingling sensations in your legs that spread to your upper body; Unsteady walking or inability to walk; Difficulty with eye movement, facial movement, speaking, chewing or swallowing; Severe pain in your lower back; Difficulty with bladder control or intestinal functions; Rapid heart rate; Low or high blood pressure; Difficulty breathing.

*Most people with Guillain-Barre syndrome experience their most significant weakness within four weeks after symptoms begin. In some cases, signs and symptoms may progress very rapidly, with complete paralysis of legs, arms and breathing muscles over the course of a few hours. (Source: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/guillain-barre-syndrome/DS00413/DSECTION=symptoms>)*

5. Children under 9 years of age: *Is this your child's first seasonal flu vaccine?*

**No:** Child requires only **one** dose this year and subsequent years.

**Yes:** Child requires **two** doses of vaccine- one dose now and the second dose in a minimum of 4 weeks.



## Influenza Vaccine 2024-25 Dosage Chart: Recommended Vaccines by Age

- FLUZONE<sup>®</sup>, FLUZONE<sup>®</sup> High Dose (Sanofi Pasteur) and FLULAVAL<sup>®</sup> tetra (GSK) quadrivalent injectable vaccines (QIVs) are publicly funded for those 6 months of age and older and contain the following viral strains:
  - A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
  - A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2) - like virus
  - B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage) - like virus
  - B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage) - like virus

**Table 2: Influenza Vaccine by Age and Dosage**

Age	Vaccine	Dosage (mL)	Number of doses required per season	Comments
6 months to 8 years	QIV	0.5 mL IM	1 or 2 *	None
≥9 years	QIV	0.5 mL IM	1	None
≥65 years	FLUZONE <sup>®</sup> High Dose QIV (or QIV 0.5 mL if unavailable)	0.7 mL IM	1	Seniors who receive a standard QIV dose <u>are not to be</u> further immunized with a 65+ flu vaccine dose in any season, <b>as this would be an administration error.</b>

- \* The first time that a child 6 months to 8 years of age (<9 years old) old receives a flu vaccine, a 2-dose schedule with doses given **4 weeks (28 days) apart is required.**
  - **An interval of less than 28 days is a medication administration error.**
- QIV is available until April 30, 2025, to allow children younger than nine years who received their first dose on or prior to the March 31, 2025, to receive their second dose.
- Although receiving two doses of the same vaccine formulation is preferred, age-appropriate influenza vaccines are considered interchangeable for children requiring 2 doses.
- Children less than 9 years of age who have received one or more doses of an influenza vaccine in a previous season should receive only one dose per season thereafter.
- Influenza vaccines will be available until April 30, 2025 to allow children who received their first dose on or prior to the March 31, 2025 program end date to receive their second dose.