

Fluzone® High-Dose Influenza Vaccine

Information for health professionals

HD TIIV is not provincially funded in Alberta

It is important to recommend influenza vaccine to all clients/patients 65 and older as they are at a higher risk of influenza disease and complications.

The standard dose of inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine (SD QIV) will be offered to all Albertans six months of age and older.

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine for all Albertans will increase protection against influenza B viruses, which can cause severe illness and complications similar to influenza A.

The standard dose QIV influenza vaccine was chosen based on:

- available scientific evidence
- epidemiology of disease patterns
- circulating influenza virus
- population at risk
- distribution logistics
- cost

HD TIIV for long term care residents that are 65 years of age and older residing in provincially funded long-term care beds in auxiliary hospitals and nursing homes

The federal government has procured and paid for the cost of high-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (HD TIIV) or Fluzone® High-Dose influenza vaccine for use in provincially funded long-term care beds across Canada for the 2020-2021 influenza season. Alberta has been allocated enough doses to provide the vaccine to long term care residents who are 65 years of age and older.

High-dose trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine

HD TIIV is an influenza vaccine targeted towards seniors 65 years and older.

The vaccine is un-adjuvanted and contains four times the amount of antigen content per dose than the standard dose inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine (SD TIIV).

National recommendations

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that any of the four available influenza vaccines should be used for seniors 65 and older in the absence of any specific product. For this age group, HD TIIV should be used over SD TIIV. NACI does not make comparative individual-level recommendations on the use among HD TIIV, SD QIV and adjuvanted TIIV.

The evidence available includes data comparing the efficacy and effectiveness of HD TIIV to SD TIIV and not to other vaccines available for use in Canada. In addition, NACI has not conducted a cost-effectiveness evaluation on HD TIIV.

Two recommendations were made: *Population Health Level* and *Individual Level*

Population Health Level

Based on the evidence available, NACI was not able to make a preferential recommendation for seniors 65 years of age and older.

Individual Level

Individuals should discuss their specific health situation with their health care practitioner to determine if the vaccine would be beneficial.

For clients who do not reside in provincially funded long-term care beds, providers can inform their clients of the availability of HD TIIV as an option through the private vaccine market based on their individual health needs.

Some community pharmacies may choose to purchase HD TIIV as an option for individuals. The individual would be responsible for the cost.

Clients/patients should be advised to call their pharmacy beforehand to determine if the vaccine is available. If an appropriate vaccine is available, immunization should not be delayed.

HD TIIV is available for residents of long-term care facilities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and Prince Edward Island. Ontario provides the vaccine to seniors 65 years of age and older. Provinces who have not provincially funded HD TIIV in the past are using the federally funded vaccine for residents of long-term care facilities.

Although there is some evidence that the vaccine provides a current season clinical benefit over SD TIIV, questions related to efficacy and effectiveness have not been adequately addressed in the evidence.

- A main study often referenced analyzed the effectiveness of the vaccine in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 influenza seasons and found that HD TIIV reduced the risk of influenza by 24%; however, this was seen in a single season.
- The available research conducted has not addressed vaccine effectiveness over multiple seasons with varying circulating influenza viruses, seasons where the vaccine strains are a mismatch with current circulating influenza strains, and indirect protection from immunization.
- In addition, studies comparing this product to the vaccines used in Alberta have not been conducted.

As more research becomes available, the use of Fluzone® High-Dose in Alberta will be re-evaluated.

ACIP has not expressed a preference for any of the available influenza vaccines and recommends any age-appropriate influenza vaccine for immunization of those 65 years of age and older.

Discussing HD TIIV with clients/patients

Other provinces and territories

The available science

The American Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommendation

More information regarding HD
TIIV:

[The NACI Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for 2020-2021](#)
[The NACI Statement Literature Review Update on the efficacy and Effectiveness of High-Dose \(Fluzone® High-Dose\) and MF59-Adjuvanted \(Fluad®\) Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines in Adults 65 Years of Age and Older](#)
[Sanofi Pasteur-Fluzone HD Product Monograph](#)