



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit

FACT SHEET

FLUZONE[®] HIGH-DOSE
(HIGH-DOSE QUADRIVALENT
INACTIVATED VACCINE)

≥ 65 YEARS OF AGE ONLY

What is the High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)?

QIV-HD is a four-component vaccine that protects against two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains. This vaccine is **ONLY** for individuals **≥ 65 years of age**.

What is High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD) and how is it different than the Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)?

The QIV-HD and QIV both contain four influenza strains however, QIV-HD contains a higher amount of antigen per strain than standard-dose influenza vaccine formulations.

Studies have shown that the higher antigen content in the high-dose vaccine improves the immune response and prevention of influenza hospitalizations compared to standard dose vaccine, which is important since older individuals may not respond as well to influenza vaccines compared to younger individuals.

Which one should you receive?

The QIV-HD and QIV both protect against the flu, and the most important thing is for older adults to be vaccinated. Do not delay vaccination to wait for a particular product.

When available, high-dose should be used over standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, given the burden of influenza disease and the good evidence of better protection compared to standard-dose in adults 65 years of age and older.

Are there side effects from High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine?

QIV-HD, like any medicine, can cause side effects, which in most cases are mild. Side effects after receiving the vaccine include redness, swelling, pain at the injection site, tiredness, weakness, headache, and fever.

Can the vaccine be given to individuals when they are ill?

It is dependent on the severity of the symptoms. Those with a severe acute illness with or without fever should wait until the symptoms subside before being immunized.

Individuals with symptoms of acute illness, including minor symptoms such as sore throat, should be recommended to complete the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool (available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) self-assessment \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus-self-assessment)). If the individual screens negative using the Self-Assessment Tool, influenza immunization may be provided.

Who should not get the High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated vaccine?

- People who have had a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or to any ingredient in the vaccine
- Egg-allergic individuals can still receive the influenza vaccine and are asked to reach out to their healthcare provider. RCDHU will not immunize individuals who have an anaphylactic allergy to eggs.
- Anyone who has developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of a previous influenza vaccination should generally NOT be vaccinated, HOWEVER, this should be weighed against the risks of not being protected against influenza.

Continued on reverse

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Does QIV-HD protect against COVID-19 virus?

The influenza vaccine will not protect against respiratory viruses other than influenza, including the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, but will help prevent infection and illness from the influenza virus.

Will the influenza vaccine increase risk of illness with COVID-19?

Expert groups and evidence indicate that getting the influenza vaccine will not increase your risk of COVID-19 infection or severe outcomes related to COVID-19

Can the influenza vaccine be given at the same time as other vaccines?

The influenza vaccines may be given at the same with other vaccines, or at any time before or after, other vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine. There are no direct studies on the co-administration of Shingrix and influenza vaccines.

Can QIV-HD cause influenza?

The publicly funded QIV-HD product is an inactivated vaccine so individuals cannot get influenza from the vaccine.

When should I call my health care provider?

Call your health care provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the vaccine:






- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures

Who should I talk to if I have any questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit immunization intake line at: **613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004**

How do I keep track of this vaccination?

After you get any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record, such as your "Yellow Card", is updated. Keep it in a safe place.

To contact us or for more information	
	613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004
	www.rcdhu.com Healthy Living Immunization
	141 Lake Street, Pembroke, ON, K8A 5L8
	 @RCDHealthunit

Source: Adapted from the Ministry of Health

2022/2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program Health Care Provider Q&A: Information for individuals ≥65 years of age. September 2022.

2022/2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program Health Care Provider Q & A: General information; September 2022.

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