



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

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

How is QIV-HD different from the QIV vaccines?

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 vaccine 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. There is no preferential recommendation for the use of QIV-HD versus TIV-adj vaccine for adults over 65 years of age.

What side effects can you expect?

The most common side effects include redness, swelling and soreness at the injection site, Headache, Tiredness/weakness, Fever. These side effects are generally mild and last only a few days.

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, should complete the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool (available at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) self-assessment \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)). 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. Anyone who has developed Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of a previous influenza vaccination can not be vaccinated at RCDHU and should reach out to their health care provider.



Does QIV 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.

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

The influenza vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines, or any time before or after other vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine. If you receive influenza and COVID-19 vaccines on the same day, they should be given in separate arms. No studies have been conducted that have assessed the co-administration of Shingrix® with adjuvanted or high-dose Influenza vaccines. It is recommended to discuss with your health care provider if being vaccinated against influenza on the same day as receiving the Shingrix® vaccine is right for you.

Can the influenza vaccine cause influenza?

You cannot get influenza from the vaccine; however, it takes your body 2 to 3 weeks to make antibodies after vaccination. Therefore, if you are exposed to the virus immediately before or after vaccination, you could still develop the illness.

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 (seizures)
- Other serious reactions

Who should I talk to if I have 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.

Source: Adapted from Health Care Providers Qs & As: Influenza Immunization Information for individuals ≥65 years of age; September 2023.