



## What is the Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)?

QIV is a vaccine that is given by intramuscular injection to help protect against influenza infection. QIV is designed to protect against four strains - two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains. **This vaccine is publicly funded for individuals  $\geq$  6 months of age and older.**

## What side effects can I expect?

The most common side effects after receiving the vaccine include redness, swelling, and soreness at the injection site, tiredness /weakness, headache, and 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-self-assessment)). If the individual screens negative using the Self-Assessment Tool, influenza immunization may be provided.

## Who should not get the Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)?

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.

## How many doses are required?

Children under nine years of age receiving an influenza vaccine for the first time should receive two doses given at least four weeks apart. The second dose is not needed if the child received one or more doses of influenza vaccine in a previous season. Any individual greater than nine years of age will require only one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine.

## 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 the 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. If you receive influenza and other vaccines on the same day, they should be given in separate arms.

### **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 mouth or throat
- 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 the Ministry of Health Universal Influenza Immunization Information Health Care Provider Qs & As; September 2023