

Ministry of Health

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September 22, 2026

RE: Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Program and Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) – 2026/2027

Dear Health Care Provider,

The following letter provides details on the 2026/2027 COVID-19 vaccine program and Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). Thank you for your continued support for these important health protection programs. Your continued efforts and support for vaccination are very important as we move into the fall.

With the COVID-19 vaccine program and UIIP approaching for the 2026/2027 respiratory season, the Ministry of Health ("ministry") is providing you with details regarding these programs. COVID-19 and influenza vaccination will continue to be very important this fall with the co-circulation of respiratory diseases, including influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Immunization protects the health of individuals, families, and communities as well as mitigates impacts on our healthcare system.

The ministry will be rolling out the COVID-19 and influenza vaccination campaigns for the 2026/2027 respiratory illness season along with the RSV infant immunization program. The adult RSV immunization program will continue to be operate year-round. These programs will help to reduce the risk of severe illness that could arise from COVID-19, RSV and influenza this season. Information on RSV prevention programs, including infants, high-risk children and adults are being shared separately, visit the [website](#) for more information.

The purpose of this letter and the attached fact sheets is to provide details on the available COVID-19 and influenza vaccine products for the 2026/2027 respiratory

season, as well as information on vaccine supply and distribution processes. See Appendix A for details.

Should you have any questions regarding local distribution and ordering, please contact your local public health unit.

For more information, please visit our websites at:

COVID-19: www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-vaccine-program

UIIP: www.ontario.ca/page/universal-influenza-immunization-program

Thank you for your efforts and support in the delivery of the 2026/2027 COVID-19 vaccine program and UIIP.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Moore', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Attachments:

Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: 2026/2027 COVID-19 Vaccine Program

Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals 6 months to 64 years of age

Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Influenza Immunization for Individuals ≥ 65 years of age

Appendix A – Updates and Details for 2026-27 Respiratory Illness Season

Fact sheets for 2026-27 have been updated per highlights below.

Highlights of changes to fact sheets:

COVID-19 vaccine program:

- Update to the spring high-risk groups.
- Added Vaccine Storage and Handling section.

Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP):

- Addition of the pregnancy and breastfeeding section in the 6 months – 64 years fact sheet.
- Removal of the B/Yamagata strain section.
- Updated influenza vaccine strains.
- Updated dates for 2026/27 influenza season.
- Updated tables with vaccine product information.

2025/2026 Publicly Funded Vaccine Products

The publicly funded vaccines available include:

COVID-19:

1. Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines for those ≥ 6 months of age
2. Protein subunit vaccine for those ≥ 12 years of age

Influenza:

1. Trivalent inactivated vaccines (TIV) for those ≥ 6 months of age
2. High-dose trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV-HD) for those ≥ 65 years only
3. Adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV-adj) for those ≥ 65 years only

Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine program](#) and [Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#) webpages for the most up to date vaccine guidance.

Provincial Vaccine Supply and Distribution Process

The provincial supply of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are received in predetermined increments dependent on Health Canada approval and vaccine availability/timing from each of the manufacturers under contract through the national

vaccine bulk procurement program. These quantities are anticipated to be received starting in mid to late September and all fall quantities are expected to be received into the province by the end of November.

Vaccine doses begin shipping across the province in late September to local public health units and pharmaceutical distributors for further distribution to premises within their jurisdictions.

Premises across the province should start receiving COVID-19 and influenza vaccines by approximately mid-October.

As the ministry receives only a portion of the provincial supply from manufacturers starting in mid to late September, the ministry distributes smaller quantities in early to mid-October to ensure equitable distribution across the province and to allow for the provincial supply of vaccine to replenish. The initial supply of vaccine is prioritized for distribution to priority settings.

Distribution and timing of the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines in Ontario is described below:

When	Distribution to	Populations for immunization
End of September to early October	• Hospitals and long-term care homes • Retirement homes, congregate living settings and other settings with high-risk populations	• High-risk and priority populations
Starting early-to mid-October	• Health care providers and all other settings who provide care for high-risk and priority populations	• High-risk and priority populations
October 26 and ongoing	• All settings and health care providers	• High-risk and priority populations • General population

All individuals in the COVID-19 and UIIP high-risk and priority groups are eligible for both vaccines as soon as available. Everyone who is eligible for COVID-19 early vaccination (prior to general population) is also eligible for UIIP early vaccination.

Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine program](#) and [Universal Influenza Immunization Program \(UIIP\)](#) webpages for more information, including health care provider fact sheets and a detailed list of high-risk and priority populations.

Each respiratory season, the government endeavours to allocate and distribute vaccine equitably to locations and providers across the province, prioritizing early doses to hospitals and other congregate care and living settings. Each season there may be unanticipated shifts in the quantity of publicly funded vaccines and/or delays in vaccine delivery (e.g. production delays by manufacturers). Therefore, vaccine deliveries could be impacted. **As a result, the ministry recommends that providers do not book appointments prior to receiving their publicly funded vaccine doses.**

Providers wishing to conduct large-scale community vaccination clinics should wait until after October 26 to ensure that an adequate supply of vaccine can be ordered based on the available provincial supply.

Co-administration

As we move into the fall and prepare for another respiratory season, we ask that you please consider, as appropriate, co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccines, as well as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine or monoclonal antibody (MAb) product whenever possible and appropriate per vaccine schedules to maximize uptake and protection.

If multiple injections are to be given at the same visit, separate limbs should be used if possible. Alternatively, the injections may be administered into the same muscle separated by at least 2.5 cm (1"). Different immunization equipment (needle and syringe) must be used for each immunization.

Vaccine Ordering

Primary care providers should not expect to receive all doses that were received in the previous season in their first order as the ministry only receives a proportion of the total provincial supply in October.

Your public health unit will communicate additional information regarding the ordering process for your initial shipment. Please be reminded that the number of doses a primary care provider receives in their first order may be adjusted at the discretion of the public health unit and the ministry in accordance with provincial and local vaccine supply.

First vaccine orders are anticipated to be delivered anytime between early to late October. COVID-19 and influenza vaccine should be offered to eligible high-risk and high-priority individuals as soon as it becomes available at your office.

Once you have received your first vaccine order, you may begin to place reorders beginning the week of October 19 for delivery/pick-up, depending on your public health unit, the week of October 26. Communication regarding your first shipment / order and reorders will be provided by your local public health unit.

Should you have any questions regarding local distribution and ordering, please contact your local public health unit.