

SUMMARY – NEW FOR INFLUENZA SEASON 2023/24

BC Influenza Disease 2022/23 season

Influenza activity peaked earlier, lasted for a shorter time period, and had a pronounced impact on the pediatric population.

Vaccine Effectiveness in 2022/23

Based on data collected between November 1, 2022 and January 6, 2023, vaccine effectiveness (VE) was estimated to be 54% against influenza A(H3N2) per the [Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network](#). Due to the dominant circulation of influenza A(H3N2) for the 2022/23 season, the VE estimate was only available for one influenza subtype.

Influenza Vaccines for the 2023/24 Influenza Season

1. The strain components for the 2023/24 Northern Hemisphere egg-based influenza vaccines are:
 - **A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; (New this Season)**
 - A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus
 - B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
 - B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus (in quadrivalent vaccines only)
2. BC publicly-funded influenza vaccines for the 2023/24 season
 - FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (multi-dose vial & prefilled syringe):
Intended for those 6 months – 64 years of age
 - FLULAVAL® TETRA – Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (multi-dose vial):
Intended for those 6 months – 64 years of age
 - FLUAD® - Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine
Intended for those age 65 years and older residing in the community
 - FLUZONE® HIGH-DOSE QUADRIVALENT Inactivated Influenza Vaccine
Intended for those 65 years of age and older who are residents in long term care, assisted living facilities and First Nations communities
 - FLUMIST® - Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine
Intended for those 2 – 17 years of age. May be offered to those 18 – 59 years of age who have needle phobia provided informed consent includes that QIIV provides better protection against influenza for this age group. This vaccine is NOT recommended for health care workers and close contacts of people who are severely immunocompromised.
3. Thimerosal Free Vaccines: Products in pre-filled syringes and FLUMIST® QUADRIVALENT are thimerosal-free and should be used for individuals with a known hypersensitivity to thimerosal.

Influenza Vaccine: Administration & Reactions

1. Influenza vaccination continues to be publicly funded for everyone six months of age and older in BC for the 2023-2024 influenza season.
2. There are **no changes** in the 2023/24 influenza season for the following:
 - Categories of eligible people for BC publicly-funded influenza vaccine;
 - Precautions and contraindications;
 - Influenza vaccine schedules;
 - Procedures for reporting influenza vaccine reactions.

Resources

1. [Influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older – Question and Answer Document August 2023](#)
2. [HealthLink BC Files](#)
 - [Why Seniors Should Get the Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine - 12a](#)
 - [Facts about influenza \(the Flu\) - 12b](#)
 - [Influenza \(Flu\) Immunization: Myths and Facts – 12c](#)
 - [Inactivated Influenza \(Flu\) vaccine - 12d](#)
 - [Live Attenuated Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine -12e](#)