

SUMMARY – NEW FOR INFLUENZA SEASON 2024/25

BC Influenza Disease 2023/24 season

In British Columbia, the most detected influenza type in the 2023/24 respiratory season was influenza A (87%) the majority subtyped as H1 (78%), and further classified as one H3N2 subclade and two H1N1 subclades.

Vaccine Effectiveness in 2023/24

According to the [Canadian Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network \(SPSN\)](#), the influenza vaccine effectiveness estimates for the 2023-2024 season was 51% (95% confidence interval). More information on influenza vaccine effectiveness estimates for prior seasons can be found [here](#).

Influenza Vaccines for the 2024/25 Influenza Season

1. The strain components for the 2024/25 Northern Hemisphere egg-based influenza vaccines are:
 - A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
 - **A/Thailand/8/2022 (H3N2)-like virus: NEW THIS SEASON**
 - 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 2024/25 season:
 - FLUZONE® QUADRIVALENT – Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine:
Intended for those 6 months – 64 years of age.
 - FLULAVAL® TETRA – Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine:
Intended for those 6 months – 64 years of age.
 - AFLURIA® TETRA – Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine:
Intended for those 5 years of age and older.
 - FLUAD® – Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine:
Intended for those age 65 years and older.
 - FLUMIST® Quadrivalent – 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 that informed consent includes that QIIV provides better protection against influenza for this age group.

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 Schedules: New wording “For children requiring 2 doses within the season, it is preferable to use the same vaccine for both doses. However, if the vaccine used for the first dose is not available or unknown, any other age-appropriate vaccine may be used for the second dose.”

Influenza Vaccine: Administration & Reactions

1. Influenza vaccination continues to be publicly funded for all individuals six months and older in BC for the 2024-2025 influenza season.
2. Updated wording for those eligible and at high risk: “People who interact closely with influenza-susceptible animals, including poultry, dairy and swine industry workers (immunization may reduce the potential for human-avian re-assortment of genes should such workers become co-infected with human and avian influenza.)”.
3. There are **no changes** to the ‘Precautions’ and ‘Contraindications’ sections of the influenza product pages for the 2024-2025 influenza season; nor to the procedures for reporting influenza vaccine reactions.

Resources

1. [Influenza vaccines for adults 65 years of age and older – Question and Answer Document August 2024](#)
2. [HealthLink BC Files](#) : Why Seniors Should Get the Inactivated Influenza (Flu) Vaccine [12a](#) ; Facts about influenza (the Flu) [12b](#) ; Inactivated Influenza (Flu) vaccine [12d](#); Live Attenuated Influenza (Flu) Vaccine [12e](#)