

Alberta fall immunization program 2024/2025

Prior to participating in the Alberta fall immunization program for 2024/2025, pharmacy teams must review the posted influenza and COVID-19 vaccine biological pages. Another benefact will be sent to notify you once the biological pages have been posted. Pharmacist participation in the provincially funded immunization program is guided by the following:

- the Alberta Immunization Policy (AIP) and the Immunization Regulation, both of which can be accessed at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-immunization-policy>; and
- the influenza and COVID-19 biological pages, which can be accessed under the **Biological products** section of the AIP website at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-immunization-policy>.

OUTREACH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM (PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES)

The goal of the outreach immunization program is to provide immunization services to protect residents and staff of congregate care settings from vaccine preventable diseases. For the fall 2024/2025 immunization season, pharmacists can begin the on-site immunization of congregate care facilities' residents and staff as soon as your pharmacy receives influenza and COVID-19 vaccines (pending supply availability). We anticipate an updated outreach policy will be posted on the AIP webpage by the beginning of July. Pharmacists are expected to read the updated outreach policy to ensure understanding of roles and expectations.

Congregate care facilities seeking an outreach immunizer will reach out to pharmacies directly to request immunization services. If your pharmacy provided outreach immunization services in fall 2023/2024 or spring 2024, please expect to be contacted by this same facility for the fall 2024/2025 season and touch base with them to start the planning.

GENERAL PUBLIC PROGRAM LAUNCH (ALL PHARMACIES)

The provincially funded fall 2024/2025 immunization program will begin on **October 15, 2024**.

Pharmacists **may not administer** influenza vaccine to the general public (no matter the individual's risk) prior to the date of **October 15, 2024**. Any advertising or promotion of influenza vaccine availability for the general public must reference the start date of the program as **October 15, 2024**. Further details regarding COVID-19 vaccine start dates will be provided in a future benefact.

Should an individual request influenza immunization prior to October 15, 2024, they can be immunized using privately paid inventory purchased by the pharmacy.

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Influenza vaccine ordering and allocation information

OUTREACH INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM VACCINE ALLOCATION

Alberta Health Services' Provincial Partner Oversight (PPO) team will lead and coordinate the Alberta immunization outreach program for senior congregate care settings. Owners and operators of senior congregate care settings are responsible for arranging immunization services for residents and staff. Pharmacies that offer immunization services in senior congregate care settings will collaborate with facilities to confirm their participation as the immunization service provider and provide the facilities with requested information to facilitate vaccine distribution. Pharmacies must commit to the roles and responsibilities for providers participating in Alberta's immunization outreach program. In September, Alberta Health will email each participating pharmacy with the final vaccine allocations, and the primary pharmacy wholesale distributor will prioritize vaccine delivery.

GENERAL POPULATION STANDARD DOSE QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINE (SD-QIV) VACCINE ORDERING

Pipeline (pre-order)

Alberta Health will not provide allocations to individual pharmacies for SD-QIV for fall 2024/2025. To order your initial pipeline for delivery prior to October 15, 2024, please follow your primary wholesale distributors' processes, which will be provided to you during the summer.

Routine ordering

Replenishment orders can be requested on or after October 15, 2024.

GENERAL POPULATION HIGH DOSE QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINE (HD-QIV) VACCINE ALLOCATION

Pipeline (pre-order)

To determine allocation pipeline quantities for HD-QIV, Alberta Health reviews Alberta Blue Cross® claims data, doses administered, doses distributed and expected inventory supply coming in to the province. Based on the administration data of the two previous years, 40 per cent of total administered doses are allocated for the pipeline fill. This is the same process that was used in previous years. For newer pharmacies that administered influenza vaccine for the first time in the 2023/2024 season, only the 2023/2024 administration data was used.

The preliminary pharmacy HD-QIV vaccine allocations will be sent to each pharmacy via email to the pharmacy's registered users in AVI starting **July 2, 2024. Final confirmation for each pharmacy's allocation will be sent in September.**

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PHARMACY BENEFACT

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PHARMACY NOTIFICATION FOR HD-QIV ALLOCATION AMOUNT BY EMAIL

As mentioned above, the HD-QIV allocation email will contain the total allocation available for the initial HD-QIV vaccine distribution (pipeline order) and the corresponding primary pharmacy wholesaler for the pharmacy.

If you do not receive an allocation email by **July 5, 2024**, please complete the following steps:

1. Check with your AVI registered users to ensure no one received the email.
2. Confirm the email was not moved to a spam or junk mail folder.

If the AVI registered user has not received the email, the email is NOT in the junk/spam folder and/or the primary pharmacy wholesaler is incorrect, submit a pharmacy wholesaler change request using the following Google Form by **July 31, 2024**:
<https://forms.gle/7wGARrGp6KASHbxM7>

As the supply of HD-QIV vaccine is limited, requests for changes in allocation will be considered in the following circumstances only:

- a newer pharmacy that opened since January 2024 with limited influenza vaccine administered data, or
- a pharmacy where the patient complement increased significantly or unexpectedly (e.g., due to a nearby pharmacy closing).

A review of the allocation can be requested from Alberta Health, using the following Google Form by **July 31, 2024**:
<https://forms.gle/7wGARrGp6KASHbxM7>

An allocation can be created for new pharmacies with no previous influenza administration history. To submit an allocation request to Alberta Health, use the following Google Form by **July 31, 2024**:
<https://forms.gle/7wGARrGp6KASHbxM7>

Alberta Health cannot accommodate initial allocation requests after **July 31, 2024**, due to logistical and distribution network time requirements. However, Alberta Health is able to provide additional vaccine throughout the season should there be a demonstrated need.

Final allocations will be shared with pharmacies and the pharmacy's primary wholesaler distributor in September.

NOTE:

Pharmacies must order vaccine judiciously. A sufficient supply of vaccine is available for pharmacies. However, not all vaccine comes in to the province at once; the vaccine arrives in a series of shipments over September, October and November. Influenza vaccine is distributed to pharmacies through pharmacy wholesale distributors in collaboration with Alberta Health. Influenza vaccine must be ordered in **units**, not doses.

- One unit is equal to **10 doses** for SD-QIV.
- One unit is equal to **5 doses** for HD-QIV.

Pharmacy wholesale distributors cannot take the vaccine back if errors in ordering occur at the pharmacy level.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

