

Influenza Immunization 2025-2026

<http://www.healthpei.ca/fluclinics>

There is **NO COST** to Islanders (> 6 months of age) as part of Universal Influenza Immunization Program this season.

- *PEI residents without a PEI Health Card (students, RCMP, Department of National Defense [DND], seasonal residents, or other non-Canadian citizens) who present for publicly funded influenza vaccine will not be charged for the vaccine or administration fee.*

Vaccines that may be used in PEI this season:

- **FLUZONE** – Trivalent inactivated vaccine (IIV3-SD)
- **FLUAD** – Trivalent inactivated Adjuvanted vaccine (IIV3-Adj)
- **FLUZONE HIGH DOSE** – Trivalent inactivated vaccine – recommended for 65 years and older (IIV3-HD)
- **FLUMIST** – Live Attenuated vaccine Trivalent (LAIV3) – for ages 2-59 years; available in PEI for ages 2-17 years.

Product	Manufacturer	Age	Dosage	Route	Site	Format
FLUZONE	Sanofi Pasteur	≥6 months	0.5 ml	IM	Anterolateral Thigh 6-12 mos. Deltoid >12 months	Prefilled Syringe
FLUAD FLUZONE HD	Seqirus Canada Sanofi Pasteur	≥65 years	0.5ml	IM	Deltoid	Prefilled Syringe
FLUMIST	MedImmune/ AstraZeneca	(2-17 years)	0.2 ml	Nasal	Intranasal	Single use prefilled glass sprayer

Dosage Considerations:

- Children <9 years of age receiving Influenza vaccine for the *first time* **require 2 doses** (at least 4 weeks apart).
- Children <9 years of age that have *previously received 1 or 2 doses* of seasonal Influenza vaccine **require 1 dose**.
- Those 9 years of age and older only **require 1 dose**.

FLUZONE (Trivalent Inactivated- IIV3 SD)

- Indicated for use and safe in persons 6 months of age and older, including pregnant women.
- No antibiotics used in manufacturing.
- Does NOT contain adjuvant, preservative or antibiotics
- Contains trace amounts of egg protein but **NACI concludes egg allergy is no longer a contraindication**.

FLUAD (Trivalent Inactivated – IIV-Adj)

- FLUAD is intended for use in the elderly population of 65 years of age and older.
- Fluad contains an adjuvant that is designed to improve the immune response to the vaccine in older individuals.
- Does NOT contain preservatives.
- Contains trace amounts of egg protein but **NACI concludes egg allergy is no longer a contraindication**.
- After shaking, the normal appearance is a milky-white suspension.
- May contain trace amounts of: Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB), formaldehyde, hydrocortisone, kanamycin, or neomycin.

FLUZONE HIGH DOSE (Trivalent Inactivated – IIV3-HD)

- FLUZONE HIGH DOSE is intended for use in the elderly population of 65 years of age and older.
- **FLUZONE HD will be available for those aged 65+ years of age who cannot receive FLUAD due to allergies to the vaccine or its components.**
- Does NOT contain adjuvant, preservative or antibiotics.
- Contains trace amounts of egg protein but **NACI concludes egg allergy is no longer a contraindication**.

FLUMIST (Trivalent Live Attenuated - LAIV)

- Recommended for use in healthy children and adolescents; can be used in children 2 years and older with stable, non-severe Asthma and children with chronic health conditions. Product to be offered to those 2-17 years of age in PEI.

Administration Considerations for FLUMIST:

- If the vaccine recipient sneezes immediately after administration the dose should NOT be repeated.
- Active inhalation (i.e. sniffing) is not required by the patient during vaccine administration.
- If nasal congestion is present that might impede delivery of vaccine, deferral of FLUMIST or administration of FLUZONE should be considered.
- May contain trace amounts of **Gentamicin and/or Gelatin**.
- LAIV can be administered with or at any time before or after live attenuated or inactivated vaccine.
- Contains trace amounts of egg protein but **NACI concludes egg allergy is no longer a contraindication**.
- Should **NOT** be used in those with Immune-compromising conditions.
- Should **NOT** be used in those with severe Asthma (defined as currently on oral or high dose interval glucocorticosteroids or active wheezing) or those with medically attended wheezing in the seven days prior to vaccination.
- Should **NOT** be used in children and adolescents 2-17 years of age receiving ongoing aspirin therapy or aspirin containing therapy because of the association of Reye's syndrome with aspirin and wild-type influenza infection. ***It is recommended that aspirin-containing products in children less than 18 years of age be delayed for four weeks after receipt of LAIV.***
- Should **NOT** be used in pregnant women.
- Should **NOT** be administered until 48 hours after antiviral agents active against influenza (i.e. oseltamivir and zanamivir) are stopped.
- Flumist recipients should avoid any close contact with anyone with severe immune compromising conditions.
- No data currently exist about the concomitant use of nasal corticosteroids and other intranasal medications.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- 2025 – 2026 Strains:

A/Victoria/4897/2022 IVR-238 (an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus),
A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 X-425A (an A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus),
B/Austria/1359417/2021 BVR-26 (a B/Austria/1359417/2021-like virus).

- Individuals 6 months of age and older – may receive their influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines concurrently, or at any time before or after other vaccines (live and non-live vaccines).
- All Influenza vaccines currently available in Canada are considered safe for use in persons with LATEX allergy.
- Single Dose formulations are THIMERSOL-FREE; multi-dose vials may contain trace amounts– check product monograph for manufacturer recommendations.
- All influenza vaccines should NOT be used in those with a history of anaphylaxis to a previous dose or to any ingredient contained in the vaccine (except egg).
- All influenza vaccines should NOT be used in those with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within six weeks of any previous Influenza vaccine.
- All influenza vaccines should NOT be used with serious acute illness at the time of presentation.