

Point Out Changes to Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines for 2024-2025

You'll see **future changes to influenza vaccines and updates to the COVID-19 vaccines for the 2024-2025 season.**

Flu vaccines will transition from quadrivalent to TRIVALENT in the coming years. It's because the extra B/Yamagata strain in the quadrivalent vaccines is no longer actively circulating.

Explain that all flu vaccines in Canada will still protect against 2 A strains, H1N1 and an updated H3N2 strain...plus the B/Victoria strain.

But now there's no preference for a quadrivalent in children.

If patients ask, educate that the annual flu vaccine doesn't protect against H5N1 bird flu. But production of H5N1 vaccines is underway...in case immunization becomes needed.

Continue to recommend an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and up...and use ANY product appropriate for their age and health status.

For patients age 65 or older, give a high-dose, adjuvanted, or recombinant flu vaccine...*Fluzone High-Dose, Flud,* or *Supemtek*. These have increased benefit in older patients.

But don't delay vaccination if one of these isn't available, instead give any available age-appropriate flu vaccine if needed.

Vaccinate against flu as soon as supply is available, ideally in September or October...and continue as long as flu is circulating.

Bookmark our resource, Flu Vaccines for 2024-25, to compare products, including *FluMist*...and review guidance on immunizing kids, pregnant patients, and people with an egg allergy.

COVID-19 vaccines will also be updated...to try to match circulating variants. Expect the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer to target the KP.2 variant...and Novavax's to target JN.1.

Stay tuned in to our COVID-19 Vaccines resource for emerging updates.

Point out that there's no preference of one product over another...any composition is expected to offer protection against current variants.

Recommend any age-appropriate 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine starting this fall for patients 6 months and up who are eligible for a dose...just like the flu vaccine.

Check that it has been at least 3 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 infection...but 6 months is the ideal interval prior to administering another dose.

Continue to ask about other vaccines that patients may need (RSV, shingles, Tdap, etc)...it's okay to give these at the same visit.

Educate that a combo flu/COVID-19 vaccine could be available NEXT fall...and that flu/RSV and COVID-19/flu/RSV vaccines are in the works.

Register for our live CE, *Immunization Updates 2024: Discussing Your Big Questions*, on Tuesday, October 15...or search for it afterward to listen on demand.

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Key References:

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