

**Date:** October 2, 2024

**From:** Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

**Re:** 2024–25 Respiratory Season Update; Grade 7 School-Based Immunization Program; Reporting Immunization Records; Pediacel to Pentacel Transition; Mpox Update

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## 2024–25 Respiratory Season Update

### Influenza Vaccine

The Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) implementation package was shared by Ontario's Ministry of Health on September 17, 2024. This information can also be found on the [Ministry of Health's UIIP webpage](#).

Pick-up dates for influenza vaccine at Lambton Public Health (LPH) are as follows:

- Long-Term Care Homes and Hospital: Starting **October 7, 2024**
- All other health care providers who opted in: Starting **October 11, 2024**

As of the above dates, orders may be picked up at LPH between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, **with a copy of your temperature log for the last 7 days**. Please pick up your order as soon as possible, as LPH has limited fridge space and will be receiving additional vaccine shipments.

Similar to previous years, influenza vaccines available include QIV Standard Dose, QIV High Dose, and TIV-adjuvanted. Vaccine has been allocated based on product availability, previous ordering, and wastage percentages.

Additional influenza vaccine orders will be accepted via LPH's [online vaccine order form](#), starting October 21, 2024. If you have questions about influenza vaccine pick-up or orders, please contact 519-383-8331 ext. 3559.

### RSV Vaccine

A reminder that **RSV vaccine (Abrysvo)** is available to order using LPH's [online vaccine order form](#). **Monoclonal antibody (Beyfortus)** is expected to arrive in Ontario in October. LPH will inform health care providers once Beyfortus is available to order for eligible patients. Eligibility criteria and fact sheets can be found on Ontario's [Ministry of Health website](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccine

Two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have recently been approved by Health Canada. Moderna SPIKEVAX KP.2 was approved on September 17, 2024. Pfizer-BioNTech COMIRNATY KP.2 was approved on September 24, 2024. Updated guidance documents can be found on the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Program webpage](#). The Ministry of Health has also updated their [COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#) for the public.

Shipments of updated COVID-19 vaccines are expected in early October. Once available, LPH will notify health care providers when these vaccines can be ordered via [LPH's online vaccine order form](#). Note: COVax data entry is required for all COVID-19 vaccines administered. If your office is interested in administering COVID-19 vaccines, please contact LPH at [covaxsupport@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:covaxsupport@county-lambton.on.ca).

Delivery channels for 2024-25 respiratory season vaccines are summarized as follows:

Provider	Influenza	COVID-19	RSV
Pharmacies	✓	✓	
Primary care providers	✓	✓ If COVax entry able	✓
Hospital for eligible inpatients and infants	✓	✓	✓
Long-term Care Homes	✓	✓	✓
LPH Pediatric Clinics	✓	✓	
LPH Mobile clinics for vulnerable populations*	✓	✓	✓

\*(e.g. residents of congregate settings, First Nations communities, homebound individuals)

## Grade 7 School-Based Immunization Program

LPH is visiting elementary schools this fall to provide meningococcal, hepatitis B, and HPV vaccines to Grade 7 students. Parents/guardians of students entering Grade 7 in September 2024 have been asked by LPH to complete an online consent form to receive these vaccines at school. Please direct all parents/guardians of students entering Grade 7 to [GetTheVaccine.ca](#) for instructions, a fact sheet, FAQs, and the online consent form.

If patients/guardians are unable to receive their vaccinations at school, health care providers may order these vaccines using LPH's [online vaccine order form](#). An updated Grade 7-12 Publicly Funded Vaccines reference guide can be found on LPH's [Health Care Professionals portal](#) under 'Routine Immunization Schedules'.

## **Reporting Immunization Records**

LPH requests health care providers inform parents/guardians it is their responsibility to report their children's immunization records to LPH at [GetTheVaccine.ca](#), for LPH to enter and validate the immunization record within Ontario's provincial immunization repository.

Nurses on LPH's immunization team are available to assist health care providers with interpreting Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule. Please contact the immunization team by calling 519-383-8331 ext. 3822 or by email at [vpdnurse@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:vpdnurse@county-lambton.on.ca).

## **Reminder: Pediacel to Pentacel Transition**

LPH has started to receive shipments of Pentacel and will now begin distributing this vaccine to health care providers in place of Pediacel. Please review LPH's [April 2024 newsletter](#) for more information about this new vaccine.

## **Mpox Update from the Ministry of Health**

Ontario's Ministry of Health continues to monitor for cases of mpox, (clade I and II), and is working collaboratively with health care providers, Public Health Ontario (PHO), and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to address health risk(s). Guidance will be updated as new information becomes available and epidemiology evolves. As per the [Government of Canada](#), the risk remains low in the country for clade I. Any changes to the level of risk assessment for Canada and Ontario will be communicated.

To date, all mpox cases in Ontario are clade IIb and most have occurred in the Greater Toronto Area amongst adult men who have sex with men. The Ontario mpox epidemiologic summary is updated bi-weekly and can be found on the [Public Health Ontario](#) website.

Ontario's Ministry of Health is maintaining up-to-date resource documents for treatment and vaccination. Access the most up to date information at [Mpox \(monkeypox\) | ontario.ca](#).