

# 2024/2025 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) now accepting applications Update to York Region Pharmacies as of May 31, 2024

The Ministry of Health is now accepting applications for the 2024/2025 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP).

If your pharmacy would like to participate in the UIIP and safely store, handle, and administer publicly funded influenza vaccines this upcoming season, please complete and submit your application to the Ministry of Health on or **before June 30, 2024**. Pharmacies that are participating in the annual UIIP are encouraged to also participate in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program.

Pharmacies that do not apply for UIIP 2024/2025 cannot participate in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program. Enrollment of non-UIIP pharmacies in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program will end on June 30, 2024.

Please see the four-step process below to learn more about the UIIP application process. For additional information, please visit the Ministry of Health website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/universal-influenza-immunization-program>.

## 1. Complete and submit an online application form

Pharmacies will need to submit the [User Agreement for Pharmacies with a Licensed Injection-Trained Pharmacist](#) (available at the website above).

**Note:** The User Agreement is an online, paperless process and pharmacies are encouraged to complete their applications electronically before the June 30, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST deadline. Applications will not be accepted over email. Please follow the instructions on the form.

Your pharmacy must have a valid insurance policy covering the period between September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. Additional insurance requirements can be found in the User Agreement.

## 2. Receipt of a Ministry email confirming application submission

The Ministry will respond within two business days to ALL application form submissions.

## 3. Cold chain inspection

York Region Public Health (YRPH) will conduct a cold chain inspection at your pharmacy to assess your compliance with the Ministry's vaccine storage and handling requirements which are detailed in the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#).

YRPH will only have **one** opportunity to conduct the required cold chain inspection for each pharmacy, so pharmacies must be well-prepared for the inspection.

In preparation for your inspection, please review the following and ensure you meet the requirements:

- [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#)

- Additional Recommendations, below

You may experience inspection delays due to the high volume of inspections that occur at this time.

#### 4. Approval to participate in the 2024/2025 UIIP

If your pharmacy is approved for receiving the influenza vaccine, you will be notified by email from the Ministry of Health prior to the launch of the 2024/2025 UIIP in the Fall. The 2024/2025 UIIP implementation materials will be available at [ontario.ca/influenza](http://ontario.ca/influenza) in the Fall.

#### Additional Recommendations

The cold chain inspection can occur at any time after your application is accepted by the Ministry.

To prepare for your inspection, review and complete the following steps:

- Assess the suitability of your vaccine refrigerator and consider upgrading to a purpose-built (or laboratory grade) refrigeration unit to ensure vaccines are stored safely. Please view this [infographic](#) for further details.
- Using a digital max/min thermometer, document refrigerator temperatures (current, maximum, and minimum) twice daily including the date, time, and your initials in the [Vaccine Temperature Log Book](#).

Example:

Month: Nov 2020 Office/Facility: YOR\_NW-12345 ABC Family Pharmacy

Week 1	Mon	1	Tue	2	Wed	3	Thur	4	Fri	5	Sat	6	Sun	7
Time	9:05 AM	5:02 PM	9:08 AM	4:58 PM	9:03 AM	5:06 PM	9:11 AM	5:07 PM	9:16 AM	5:10 PM	9:03 AM	5:10 PM	10:00 AM	5:05 PM
Current Temp	5.8	4.1	3.4	3.9	5.7	4.5	5.3	3.6	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.4
Max Temp	6.0	5.0	5.9	4.1	6.1	4.6	6.3	3.9	5.8	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.1	5.9
Min Temp	3.4	3.9	2.9	3.3	4.0	4.0	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.1
Initials	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB	RB

At least five (5) continuous business days of temperature recordings are required to demonstrate the vaccine refrigerator is working within the acceptable range of +2.0°C to +8.0°C prior to your inspection.

- Ensure a copy of the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#) is readily available
- Review your previous year's cold chain inspection report and ensure outstanding issues have been addressed
- Change the batteries of your thermometers every six months and document the date when the change was made in the [Vaccine Temperature Log Book](#)
- Ensure your transport cooler and supplies (including ice packs and fridge blankets) are readily available
- Cold chain supplies including temperature log books, transport coolers, thermometers, ice packs and fridge blankets can be obtained free of charge from one of the YRPH office locations listed below:
  - 17150 Yonge Street, Newmarket
  - 9060 Jane Street, Vaughan
  - 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill

- 4261 Highway 7 East, Markham
- 24262 Woodbine Avenue, Georgina
- Remove all expired flu vaccines from the refrigerator and complete the [Non-Reusable Vaccines Wastage Form](#). Drop off expired vaccines along with a completed Non-Reusable Vaccines Form at any of the YRPH office locations listed above, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- In preparation for respiratory virus season, you and your staff are encouraged to complete the [Vaccine Storage and Handling e-Learning Module](#) which introduces key information outlined by the Ministry of Health's Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines such as the importance of maintaining the cold chain, vaccine storage and handling best practice, vaccine refrigerator organization, temperature monitoring and documentation, cold chain incidents, and tips to minimize vaccine wastage.

NOTE: This e-Learning module is geared towards healthcare providers that order vaccines directly from YRPH and content about ordering and picking up vaccines may not be applicable to your practice.

## **Questions? Contact York Region Public Health**

If you have any questions about the UIIP or vaccine storage and handling requirements, visit [york.ca/vaccineinventory](http://york.ca/vaccineinventory), contact York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or email [vaccineinventory@york.ca](mailto:vaccineinventory@york.ca).

Thank you for your interest in the 2024/2025 UIIP and we look forward to your participation.