

Priority Groups and Phases for the 2009-2010 Influenza Season

All individuals aged 6 months or older, who live, work or attend school in Ontario are eligible to receive the publicly-funded seasonal influenza vaccine through the Seasonal Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). However, with the arrival of the novel pandemic H1N1 virus and pending vaccine, the Ministry is recommending a **three-phased approach to influenza immunization this year:**

- **Phase I:** Immunization for everyone aged 65+ in Ontario, and all residents (of all ages) in Long Term Care Homes (LTCHs), with seasonal influenza vaccine (in October 2009).
- **Phase II:** Immunization for all those who need and want the H1N1 vaccine as per the nationally recommended sequenced groups, (in November/December 2009).
- **Phase III:** "Catch-up" seasonal influenza vaccine (seasonal UIIP) will be offered to all those 6 months of age and older who live, work or attend school in Ontario, including anyone 65 years and older who did not receive the seasonal influenza vaccine during Phase 1 (this will likely occur in December 2009/January 2010).

Three-Phased Approach:	
Phase I: Limited seasonal influenza vaccination (slated for October 2009)	Phase II: H1N1 vaccination (slated for November/December 2009)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People 65 years of age or older in Ontario. • Residents of Long-Term Care Homes (of any age) living in Ontario 	<p>Those who would benefit most from immunization and/or those who care for them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with chronic medical conditions, under age 65 • Pregnant women • Healthy children from six months to five years old • Persons residing in remote and isolated settings or communities • Health care workers involved in pandemic response or the delivery of essential health care services • Household contacts and care providers of persons at high risk who cannot be immunized or may not respond to vaccines • Populations otherwise identified as high risk <p>Others who would benefit from immunization include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy children five to 18 years of age • First responders • Swine and poultry workers • Healthy adults between 19 and 64 years of age • Adults 65 years of age and over
Phase III: Seasonal UIIP (slated for December 2009/January 2010)	
<p>Universal influenza immunization program (UIIP) for all people six months of age and older who live, work or attend school in Ontario including anyone who was not immunized during Phase I.</p>	