

## Should I consider a high-dose flu vaccine?

The high-dose flu vaccine was designed to protect adults over 65.

The natural weakening of the immune system that happens with age also renders seniors less responsive to the regular flu vaccine.

According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the regular flu vaccine is **about half as effective** in the elderly compared to younger healthy adults.

# Your immune system may slow down, but you don't have to.

Don't leave yourself vulnerable to influenza.

As we age, the natural weakening of the immune system increases the chances of getting influenza (also known as the flu), which can result in serious complications.





#### For the 2018-2019 flu season, NACI concluded:

"At an individual level, NACI recommends that high-dose flu vaccines should be offered to persons 65 years of age and older."

# Why should I consider asking for FLUZONE® High-Dose this flu season?

FLUZONE® High-Dose is made for people over 65, to better prevent the flu than our regular flu vaccine.





In a study of 31,000 people over 65 in the US and Canada, FLUZONE® High-Dose was demonstrated to be **24% MORE EFFECTIVE** than our standard dose vaccine in protecting seniors from the flu.

Like the standard dose vaccine, the most common side effects are injection site pain and muscle pain. The risk of FLUZONE® High-Dose causing serious harm is extremely small, and the small risks associated with it are much less than the risks associated with the flu.

#### What are the potential consequences of the flu for adults 65+?

Adults 65 years and older are the most affected by the flu and its complications.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada:

- Each year, an estimated 175,000 emergency room visits in Canada are due to influenza
- Adults 65 years of age and older account for 17% of the Canadian population but experienced:
  - o 65% of influenza-related hospitalizations and
  - o 86% of influenza-related deaths in the 2017-2018 flu season

Influenza can trigger stroke or heart attack in individuals who have heart disease and can worsen conditions like diabetes or kidney disease.

#### FLUZONE® High-Dose is publicly funded for ADULTS 65+:

- across the province of **ONTARIO**, as part of the 2018-2019 flu season
- living in long-term care (LTC) facilities in MANITOBA, including patients in chronic care, interim/transitional care, respite care and unimmunized residents admitted to LTC during flu season
- living in LTC and residential care facilities in NOVA SCOTIA, as of fall 2018
- living in LTC facilities in **SASKATCHEWAN**, starting October 22, 2018
- living in LTC and community care facilities (CCF) in PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, including those in acute care awaiting placement in LTC and CCF, as part of the 2018-2019 flu season
- living in LTC facilities in the NORTHWEST **TERRITORIES**, as of 2018

#### Over 112 MILLION DOSES of FLUZONE® High-Dose have been

distributed in the US since 2009.

FLUZONE® High-Dose is a vaccine used to prevent influenza in adults 65 years of age and older. Influenza (or flu) is an infection caused by the influenza virus. Annual vaccination using the current vaccine is recommended for prevention against influenza as immunity declines in the year following vaccination. Persons with a history of severe allergic reaction to eggs or egg products or any component of FLUZONE® High-Dose should not receive the vaccine. FLUZONE® High-Dose will only protect against the strains of influenza virus contained in the vaccine or those that are closely related. FLUZONE® High-Dose will not protect against any other strains of influenza virus. FLUZONE® High-Dose is not indicated for the prevention of hospitalization or death after the onset of disease. As with all vaccines, FLUZONE® High-Dose does not protect 100% of people immunized. Allergic reactions can occur. The most common side effects are pain at the injection site and muscle ache. Contact your healthcare provider to see if this vaccine is right for you. For more information, visit



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#### FOR ADULTS 65+

### Preventing the flu.





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**WWW.FLUZONE.CA** 







