Public flu vaccine programs across Canada

2026–2027 season: who gets it free, when, and which vaccines

Updated November 2, 2026. All 13 provincial and territorial programs have launched.

National baseline
NACI statement, May 2026

Everyone 6 months+
Offer a flu shot every year to anyone without a contraindication; prioritize high-risk groups.

One dose a year
Children under 9 getting their first-ever flu vaccine need two doses, four weeks apart.

Adults 65+
High-dose or adjuvanted vaccine preferred when available. No recombinant vaccine is available in Canada.

New strains, trivalent
All three strains updated this year: A/Missouri (H1N1), A/Darwin (H3N2), B/Tokyo (B/Victoria).

Updated November 2. Every province and territory has now published and launched its 2026–27 program. Yukon's and Nunavut's 2026 influenza chapters aren't online yet; those gaps appear in grey below. The biggest change this year: Quebec no longer offers free flu shots to everyone.

Universal free for everyone 6 months+ Targeted free only for eligible groups

Jurisdiction	Opens to the public	Free eligibility and priority groups	Vaccines offered
British Columbia BC Universal	**Oct 13** Invitations via Get Vaccinated from Oct 5, reaching everyone by early Nov. No invite by mid-Nov: book online or 1-833-838-2323.	All residents 6 months+. Strongly recommended for adults 65+, long-term care and assisted living, chronic illness or immunocompromised, Indigenous people, pregnant people, children 6 months to under 5. Clinics, 1,400+ pharmacies, some primary care.	Fluviral, Fluzone (standard, 6 mo+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+, preferred) FluMist nasal spray (2–17; 18–59 with needle phobia) Fluzone High-Dose not publicly funded
Alberta AB Universal	**Oct 19** Booking opened Oct 5. Ages 6 months–4 at public health only; ages 5+ also at pharmacies.	Everyone 6 months+ who lives, works, studies or is visiting in Alberta. Higher-risk groups encouraged: seniors, pregnant people, young children, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, chronic conditions, congregate care.	Fluzone, Fluviral, Flucelvax (standard, 6 mo+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+) Fluzone High-Dose (18+ transplant and CAR-T patients only)
Saskatchewan SK Universal	**Oct 13** Booking opened Oct 6 at 4flu.ca or 1-833-727-5829. Pharmacies serve ages 5+ with a Sask. health card.	Residents 6 months+ at no cost. Named groups: 65+, chronic conditions, children under 5, pregnant people, Indigenous people, care home residents, health-care workers. Public health, pharmacies, physicians and NPs.	Fluviral, Fluzone (standard, 6 mo+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+) Fluzone High-Dose (65+ if Fluad is contraindicated)
Manitoba MB Universal	**Week of Oct 13** Public health clinics begin; long-term care residents done by end of Oct. Pharmacists vaccinate ages 2+.	All Manitobans 6 months+, plus out-of-province visitors and international students (an administration fee may apply). Especially important for 65+, long-term care, pregnancy, children under 5, Indigenous people, chronic conditions.	Standard-dose trivalent, incl. cell-based Flucelvax (6 mo+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+)
Ontario ON · UIIP Universal	**Oct 26** High-risk and priority groups from week of Sept 28.	Anyone 6 months+ who lives, works or goes to school in Ontario; no health card needed. Early access: 65+, congregate living, pregnancy, children 6 months–4 years, chronic conditions, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, health-care workers, first responders. Pharmacists vaccinate ages 2+.	Fluviral, Fluzone, Flucelvax (standard, 6 mo+) Fluzone High-Dose (65+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+)
Quebec QC · new this year Targeted	**Oct 20** Booking opened Oct 13 on Clic Santé or 1-877-644-4545. Public sites, CLSCs and pharmacies.	**Universal free coverage ended.** Free for: adults 65+; people 6 months+ with certain chronic illnesses (incl. immunosuppression); residents of CHSLD, RI-SAPA, RPA and similar settings; pregnant people from 13 weeks (any stage with a chronic illness); household members and caregivers of higher-risk people, including babies under 6 months and people 75+; health-care staff. Others 6 months+ can pay; ask the pharmacy or clinic for the price. PHAC's July 2026 adult and childhood schedule tables still show free vaccine for anyone 6 months+ in Quebec; Québec.ca is more recent.	Trivalent injectable (6 mo+) Injectable only this season; no nasal spray listed
New Brunswick NB Universal	**Oct 13** Booking opened Oct 2. Pharmacies (online scheduler or by phone), some primary care, public health for children.	Free for everyone 6 months+. Strongly recommended for 65+, long-term care and group living, chronic conditions, pregnant people. Pharmacists vaccinate ages 2+. No NB Medicare card: 1-833-437-1424.	Fluviral, Fluzone (standard) Fluad adjuvanted (65+) FluMist nasal spray (2–17 with needle fear)
Nova Scotia NS Universal	**Booking open Oct 8** novascotia.canimmunize.ca, YourHealthNS app or 811. Family booking for up to 6 people is back.	Free for everyone 6 months+. Primary care, pharmacies, public health offices and mobile units; some drop-in clinics. In-home shots for current continuing care clients.	Fluviral (standard, 6 mo+) Fluad or Fluzone High-Dose (enhanced, 65+) Brand not chosen at booking
Prince Edward Island PE Universal	**Mid-October** Public Health Nursing clinics mid-Oct to early Dec. Book via Skip the Waiting Room or 1-844-975-3303.	Free for anyone living on PEI. Also through pharmacies, family physicians and nurse practitioners. Bring a PEI Health Card.	Fluzone (standard, 6 mo+) Fluad adjuvanted (65+) FluMist nasal spray (healthy 2–17, limited supply)
Newfoundland and Labrador NL Universal	**Oct 19** Book at TimefortheShot.ca, with a primary care provider, or at a pharmacy.	Everyone 6 months+. Strongly recommended for 65+, children 6 months–5 years, group living, immunocompromised, chronic conditions, pregnancy, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, health-care workers and caregivers.	Fluviral, Fluzone (standard, 6 mo–64) Fluad adjuvanted (65+)
Yukon YT Universal	**Booking open** Since late Sept. yukonimmunization.ca/appointments, pharmacies (Whitehorse, ages 5+), community health centres.	All Yukoners 6 months+. High-risk people, health-care workers and caregivers encouraged.	2026–27 manual chapter not posted online. Last published (2024–25): Fluzone (6 mo+), Fluzone High-Dose (65+), FluMist (2–17; 18–59 with needle phobia)
Northwest Territories NT Universal	**From Oct 16** Clinics roll out by community; long-term care and health-care workers first. Yellowknife walk-ins in Nov. Schedule at nthssa.ca.	Publicly funded for everyone 6 months+, prioritizing high-risk groups, people who can spread flu to them and essential workers (NWT 2026–27 guidelines).	Fluzone (standard, 6 mo+) Fluzone High-Dose (65+ and all long-term care) FluMist nasal spray (2–59, exceptional basis)
Nunavut NU Universal	**Oct 20 (Iqaluit)** Iqaluit Public Health walk-ins; other communities book through their health centre.	All eligible Nunavummiut 6 months+.	Fluviral (standard, 6 mo+) Fluzone High-Dose (65+) FluMist nasal spray Products per Immunization Manual (Aug 2026); ages from Oct 2025 protocols, 2026 protocols not online

How to read this. "Opens" is the start date for the general public; long-term care, hospitals and high-risk groups are often vaccinated first. Pharmacist age minimums vary (ON, MB, NB 2+; AB, SK 5+); younger children go through public health or primary care. Supply and clinic schedules can change, so confirm with your provincial or territorial health ministry before booking.

Sources. NACI 2026–27 statement; WHO 2026–27 strain recommendation; BC news release (Oct 7) and BCCDC manual; alberta.ca and Alberta Blue Cross Benefacts #1326, #1338; saskatchewan.ca and Saskatchewan Immunization Manual (Ch. 10, Aug 2026 amendments); Manitoba 2026/27 Program Plan; Ontario UIIP; Québec.ca; GNB release (Oct 2) and NB Drug Plans; NS release (Oct 8) and NS vaccine