

Immunization Updates: 2025-26 Fall Vaccines

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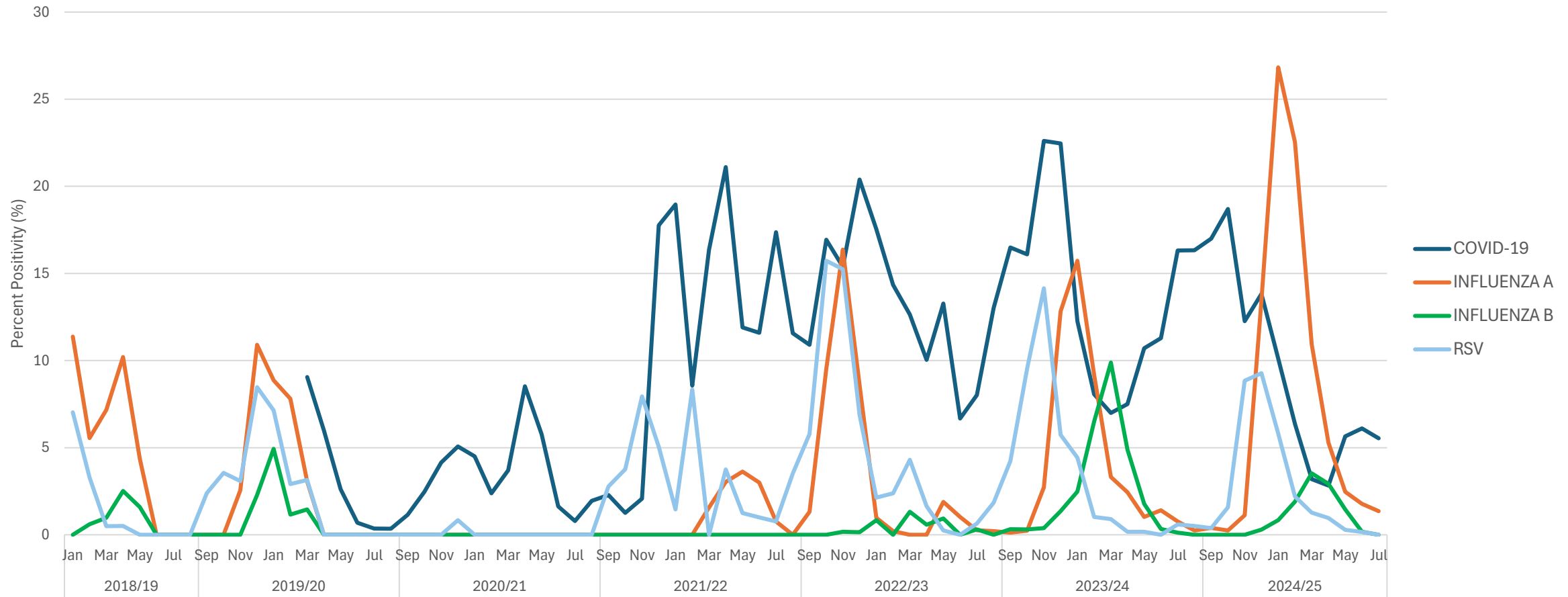


Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Outlook for the Fall Respiratory Season & Timelines of Vaccines
- Fall Immunization Campaigns
 - High-Risk Older Adult RSV Vaccine Program
 - COVID-19 vaccines
 - Influenza vaccines
- Immunization Program Updates
 - Pneumococcal vaccines
 - AEFI reporting
- Question & Answer Session



Seasonal Respiratory Virus Trends - Halton



Timeline of Vaccines

MID TO END OF SEPT

Anticipating influenza & COVID-19 vaccines to arrive at PHU.

AFTER OCTOBER 27

Providers able to conduct large-scale influenza and COVID-19 community clinics for general population

OCTOBER

- Oct 6-10: Delivery of influenza vaccine auto-shipment
- Delivery of COVID-19 vaccine orders, if placed by Oct 1st

EARLY TO MID SEPT RSV Vaccines

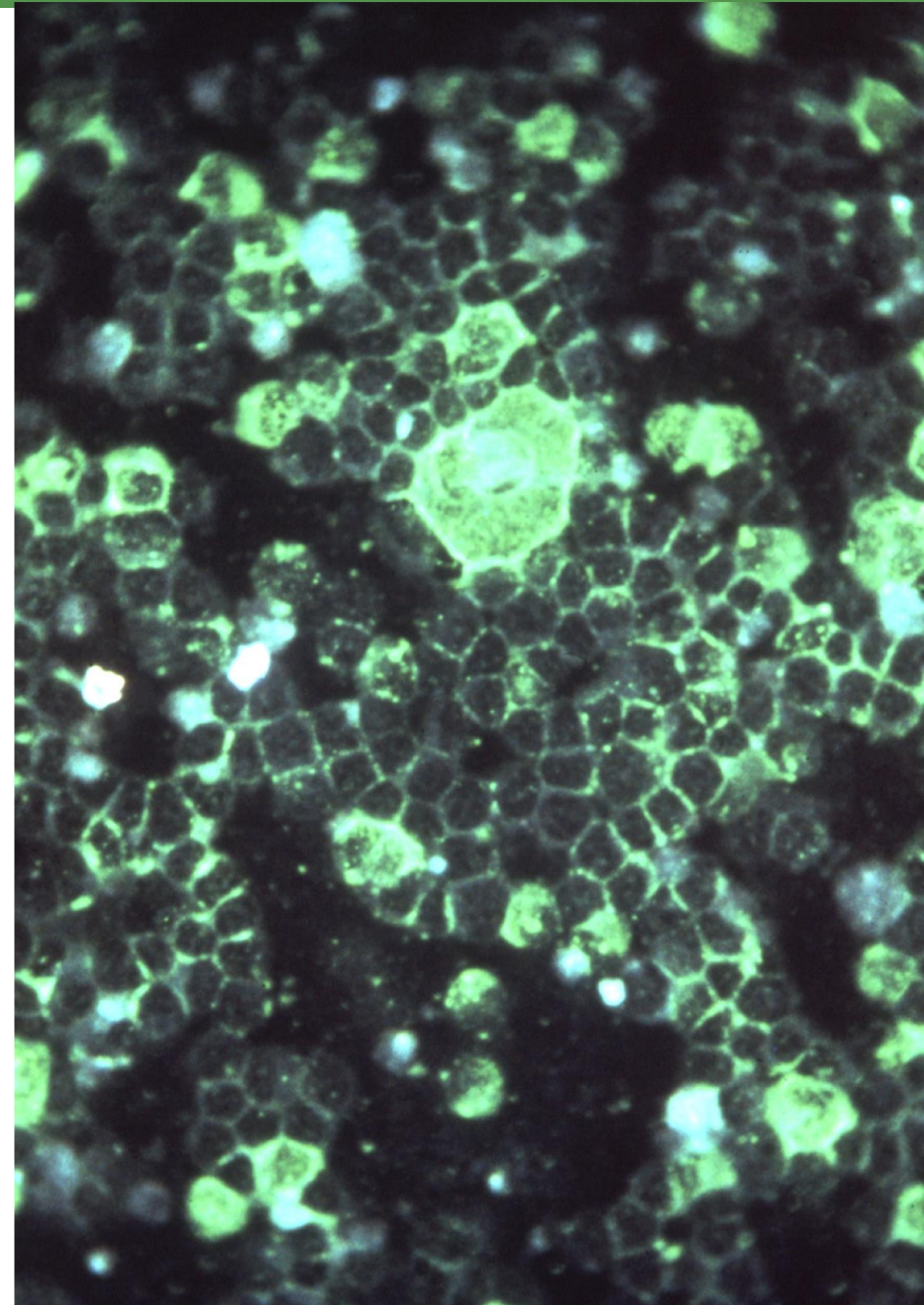
Arexvy and Abrysvo expected to arrive at PHU. Distribution to begin immediately.

JULY

Preparation for launch of fall vaccine campaigns



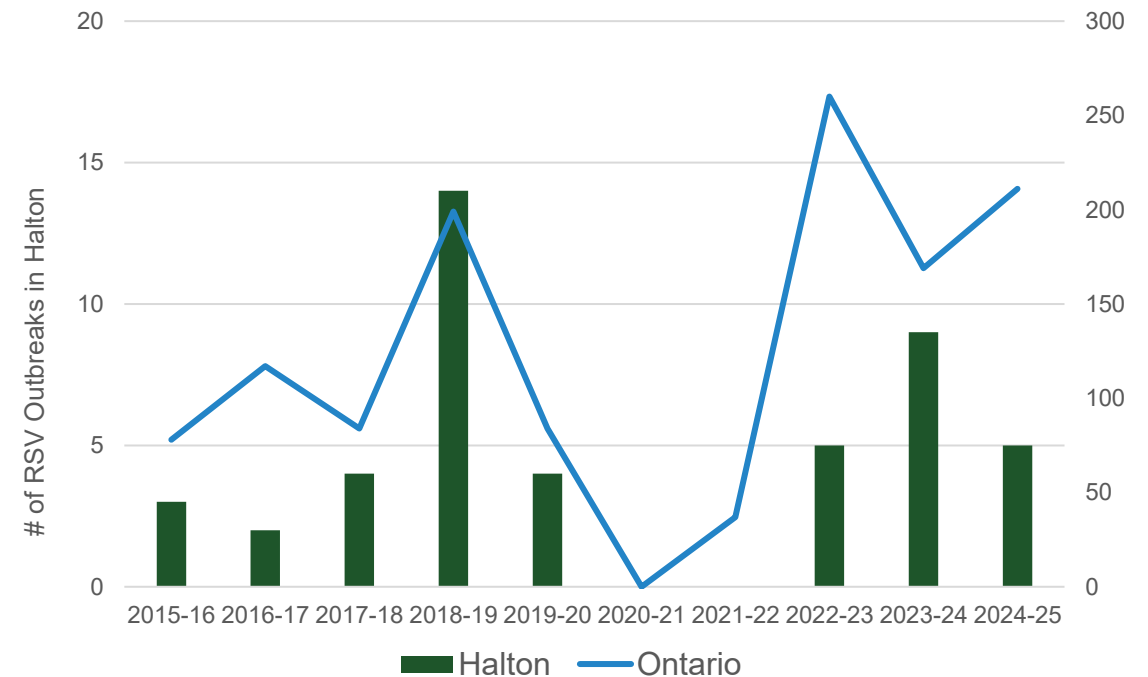
Older Adult High-Risk RSV Vaccine Program



Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in an unidentified tissue sample. [CDC/Dr. Craig Lyerla](#)

What is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

- An enveloped RNA virus
- Common cause of pneumonia, bronchiolitis
- Reinfection with RSV can occur
- Repeat infections are often less severe until older adulthood
- RSV mortality among older adults hospitalized for RSV, is approximately 5 to 10%
- Causes 5-10 outbreaks per year in Halton; 100-200 outbreaks per year in Ontario



RSV Vaccines - Product Availability

	RSVPreF3 (<u>Arexvy</u>)	RSVpreF (<u>Abrysvo</u>)
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	Pfizer
Type of Vaccine	Adjuvanted recombinant protein subunit	Bivalent recombinant
Dosage	0.5 mL – 1 dose schedule	0.5 mL – 1 dose schedule
Route	IM	IM
Indication	• Individuals 60 years of age and older • Individuals 50 to 59 who are at increased risk of RSV disease	• Individuals 60 years of age and older • Pregnant individuals from 32 to 36 weeks gestation
Adjuvant	AS01E (similar to Shingrix)	None
Reconstitution Required	Yes	Yes
Storage Requirements	2°C to 8°C	2°C to 8°C

Updated Eligibility Criteria

- ➔ 1. All individuals 75 years of age and older
- 2. Individuals 60 to 74 years of age who are also:
 - Residents of long-term care homes, Elder Care Lodges, or retirement homes including similar settings (e.g. co-located facilities)
 - In-hospital receiving Alternate Level of Care (ALC) including similar settings (e.g. complex continuing care, hospital transitional programs)
- ➔ • Patients with glomerulonephritis (GN) who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
- Receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Recipients of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplants
- Experiencing homelessness
- Individuals who identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis



RSV Vaccine Schedule

- **One dose, only.**
 - If an individual has previously received a dose of RSV vaccine, they **do not need** another dose
- Studies show multi-year protection
- The need and timing of future doses is unknown as studies are ongoing to determine duration of protection



Vaccine Safety and Adverse Events

Common side effects:

- Mild or moderate pain at the injection site
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or joint pain



Contraindications, Precautions & Co-administration



- History of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any of the vaccine ingredients or any materials found in the packaging.



- Severe acute illness with or without fever
- Post transplant recipients
- Note: Previous RSV infection(s) - No interval between infection & vaccination



- Can be administered at the same time as, or at any time before or after, other vaccines.

Ordering RSV Vaccines

- Fax a completed [RSV Product Order Form](#) to 905-465-3403.
 - **Note:** A temperature log with 30 most recent days must be included with the order if your facility has not ordered other vaccines within the same ordering cycle.
- RSV vaccine will be sent to your facility according to Halton Region's [vaccine distribution schedule](#).
- Vaccine ordering information is available online at [Halton.ca – Vaccine Information for Physicians](#).
 - NB: Pharmacies do not have access to publicly-funded RSV vaccine



COVID-19 Vaccines



NACI Recommendations – At least 1 dose/year

Recommendation 1A (Strong)

Previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals at increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 exposure or severe COVID-19 disease, which includes the following:

- All adults 65 years of age or older
- Those 6 months of age and older who are:
 - Residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings
 - Individuals with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, including children with complex health needs
 - Pregnant women and individuals who are pregnant
 - Individuals in or from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities
 - Health care workers and other care providers in facilities and community settings
 - Members of racialized and other equity-denied communities

Recommendation 1B (Discretionary)

All other **previously vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals** (6 months of age and older) who are not at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure or severe COVID-19 disease (i.e., not on the list in Recommendation 1A) **may** receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

NACI Recommendations – Second dose/year

Recommendation 2A (Strong)

The following individuals should receive a **second dose** of COVID-19 vaccine per year:

- Adults 80 years of age or older
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment)

Recommendation 2B (Discretionary)

The following individuals should receive a **second dose** of COVID-19 vaccine per year:

- Adults 65 to 79 years of age

Interval Between Doses

- Minimum: 3 months

Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Program

- Updated COVID-19 vaccines targeting the **LP.8.1 Omicron strain** are expected to be available for Fall immunization campaigns.
- Vaccine rollout: Similar to last year — initial focus on high-risk groups, followed by universal access in the Fall.
- COVID-19 vaccine program has transitioned to an annual program similar to the influenza vaccine program.



COVID-19 Vaccines - Product Availability

Manufacturer/Format	Strain	Age Indication	Storage and Handling
Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) - MDV	LP.8.1	12+ years	10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C
Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) - SDV		5 -11 years	10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C
Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty®) - PFS		12+ years	10 weeks at +2°C to +8°C
Moderna (Spikevax®) - MDV		12+ years	50 days at +2°C to +8°C
Moderna (Spikevax®) - MDV		6 mos - 11 years	50 days at +2°C to +8°C
Moderna (Spikevax®) - PFS		12+ years	50 days at +2°C to +8°C

Ordering COVID-19 Vaccines

- Submit vaccine orders through the online [Vaccine Order Form](#).
- Orders placed by October 1, 2025, will be delivered at no cost to your facility with your influenza vaccine auto-shipment.
- Following the initial shipment, vaccines ordered will be sent to your facility according to Halton Region's [vaccine distribution schedule](#).



COVax Accounts

- COVax accounts are de-activated after 45 days of inactivity



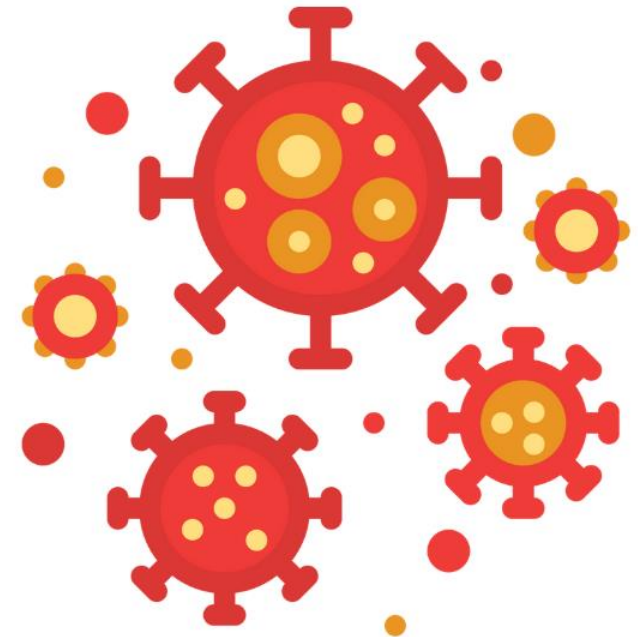
- Email COVIDVaccine@halton.ca to:
 - Re-activate existing COVax accounts
 - Create COVax accounts for new staff
- To avoid delays in vaccine administration, ensure that accounts are re-activated/created, in advance of your planned clinic date

Influenza Vaccines



Trivalent Influenza Vaccines

- No confirmed detections of circulating B/Yamagata lineage viruses after March 2020.
- Expert groups removed B/Yamagata component from influenza vaccine formulations, in alignment with [WHO's recommendations for the 2025-2026 Northern Hemisphere season](#).
- Only trivalent influenza vaccines will be available this season in Ontario.



Influenza Vaccines – Product Availability

Vaccine Name/Formulation	Manufacturer	Format	Post-Puncture Shelf Life	Age Indication
Flucelvax® (TIV-SD)	Seqirus	Single dose - PFS	Not applicable	≥ 6 months
Fluviral (TIV-SD)	GSK	MDV	28 days	≥ 6 months
Fluzone® (TIV-SD)	Sanofi	Single dose - PFS	Not applicable	≥ 6 months
	Sanofi	MDV	28 days	≥ 6 months
Fluzone® (TIV-HD)	Sanofi	Single dose - PFS	Not applicable	≥ 65 years
Fluad® (TIV-adj)	Seqirus	Single dose - PFS	Not applicable	≥ 65 years

*All influenza vaccines will be trivalent for the 2025-26 season

UIIP & COVID-19 Vaccine Timeline



	2025					2026		
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-Mar	April	May
Vaccine Roll Out		High-Risk COVID-19 & Flu	High-Risk COVID-19 & Flu	General COVID-19 & Flu			High-Risk COVID-19	High-Risk COVID-19

Pneumococcal Vaccines



Pneumococcal Vaccine Updates

- In July 2024, the Province made changes to the Pneumococcal program, replacing Pneu-P-23 (Pneumovax) with Pneu-C-20 for older adults.
- The Ontario program for older adults remain unchanged, but since July 2024:
 - Merck has voluntarily discontinued Pneumovax
 - Pneu-C-21 was introduced
 - [NACI](#) and [OAIC](#) issued new recommendations



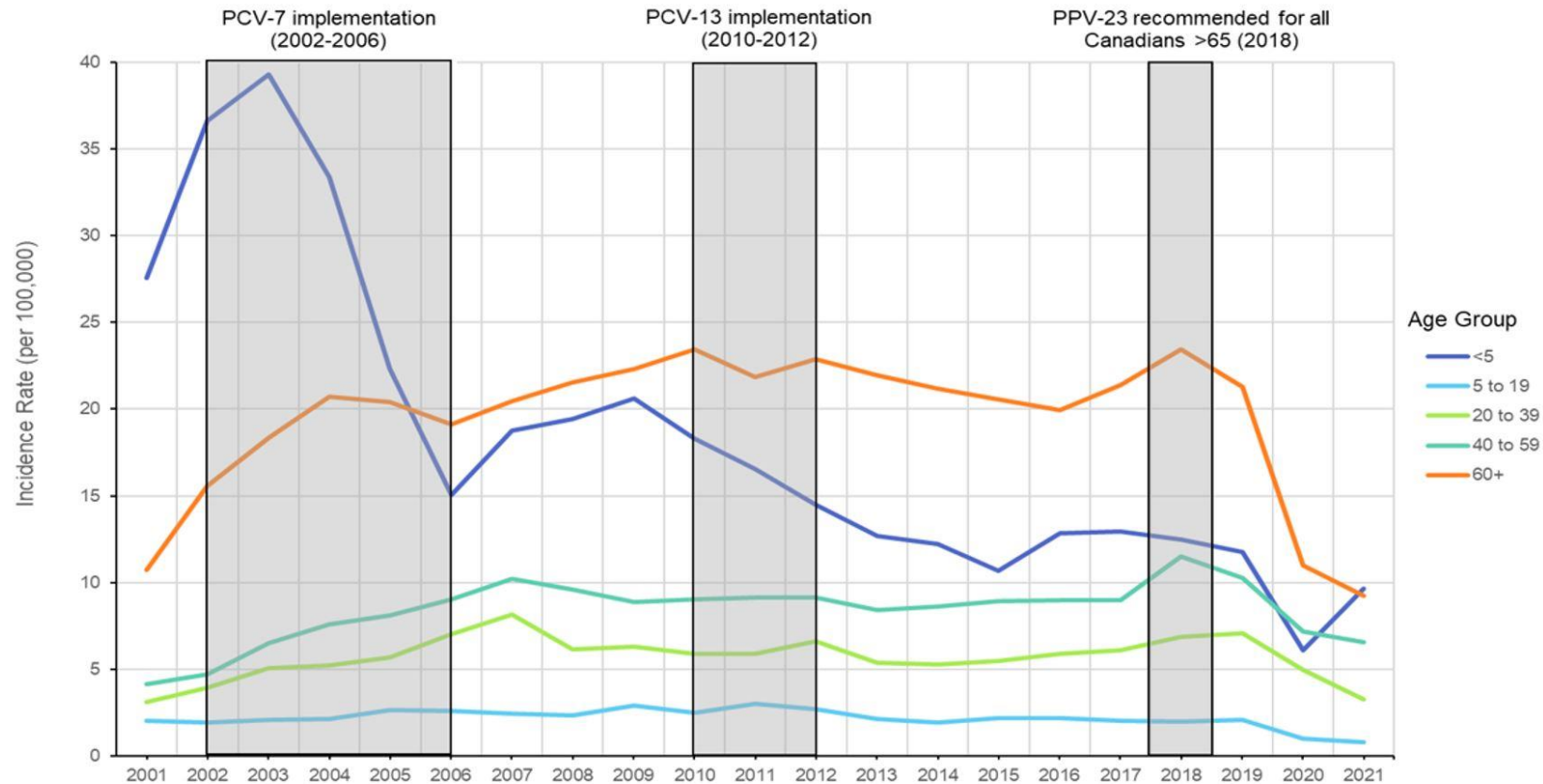
Products Authorized in Canada

Table 2: *S. pneumoniae* serotypes included in pneumococcal vaccines

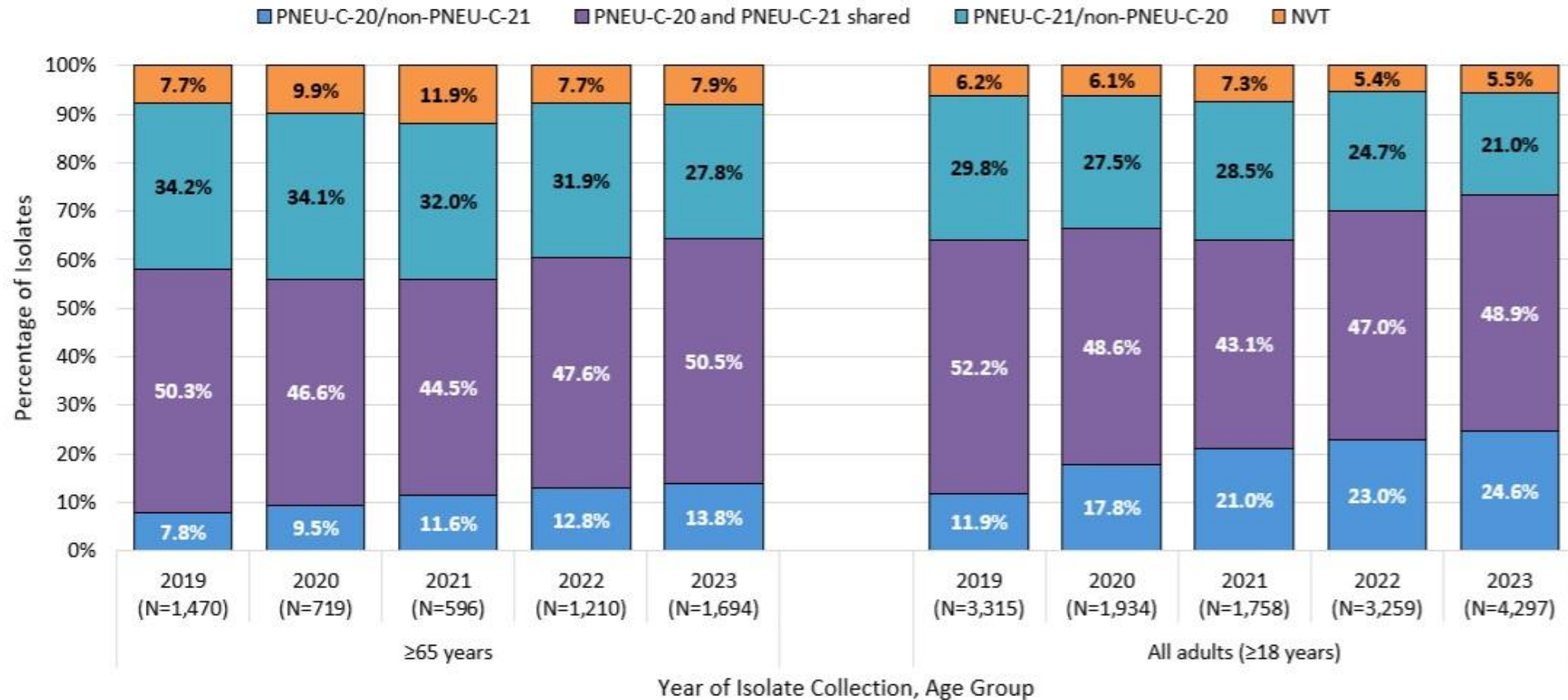
	Serotypes in pneumococcal vaccines																												
Vaccine	1	4	6B	9V	14	18C	19F	23F	5	7F	3	6A	19A	22F	33F	8	10A	11A	12F	15B	2	9N	17F	20	15A	16F	20A	23A	23B
PNEU-C-10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																			
PNEU-C-13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
PNEU-C-15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
PNEU-C-20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
PNEU-C-21										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PNEU-P-23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease

IPD incidence rates (per 100,000) by age group following the introduction of Pneu-C programs in Canada, 2001-2021



Proportion of IPD isolates from 2019 to 2023



NACI Recommendations: Older Adults

Recommendation 1

Adult pneumococcal immunization programs in Canada should include at least one of Pneu-C-20 or Pneu-C-21

(Strong recommendation)

Recommendation 2

One dose of either Pneu-C-20 or Pneu-C-21, regardless of pneumococcal vaccination history with Pneu-C-13, Pneu-C-15 or Pneu-P-23, should be given to:

- Adults ≥ 65 years of age
- Adults < 65 years of age at increased risk of IPD

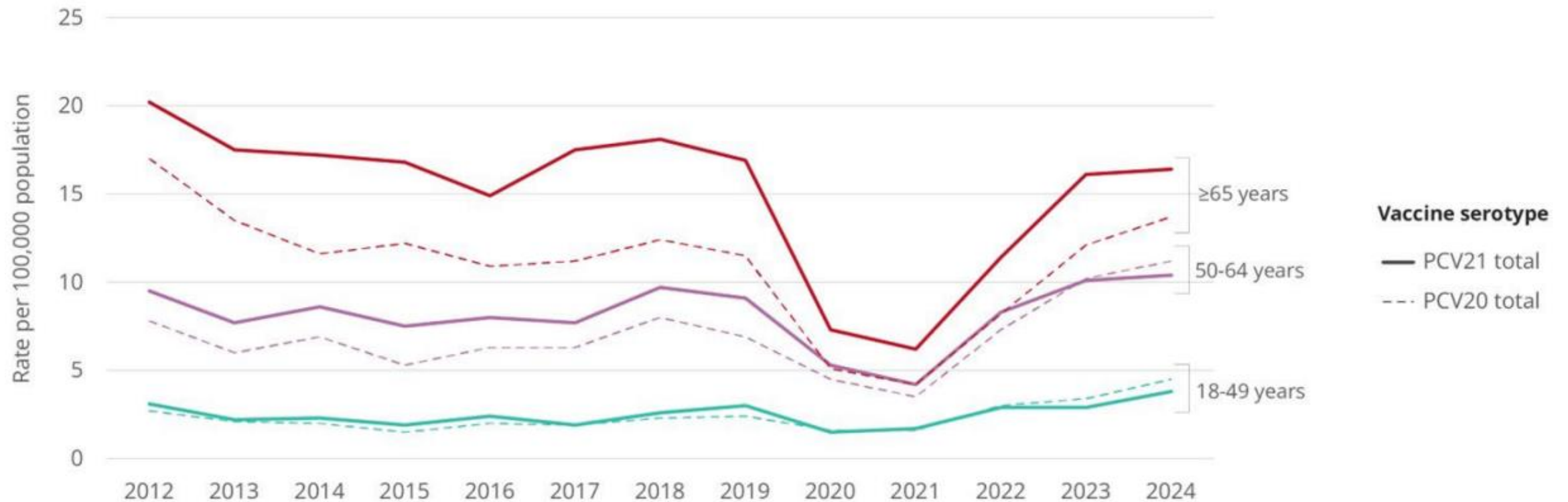
(Strong recommendation)

Recommendation 3

Both Pneu-C-20 or Pneu-C-21, should be offered to adults 18 years of age or older who received a hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) after consultation with the transplant specialist.

(Strong recommendation)

Pneumococcal Disease Serotype Distribution



Ontario Pneumococcal Vaccine Program

Age Group	Risk of IPD	Previous Publicly Funded Vaccine	Current Publicly Funded Vaccine
2 to 49 years	High-risk	Pneu-P-23 (2 doses)	Pneu-C-20 (1-4 doses depending on age and risk factors)
50+ years	High-risk	Pneu-C-13 (1-3 dose series) + Pneu-P-23	
65+ Years	Routine	Pneu-P-23	

- Incomplete series can be completed with the new product
- **No publicly funded catch-up doses for people who have completed their series, at this time.**
- Refer to the [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Adults Aged 18 Years and Older](#) for eligibility, dosing and schedules.

Adverse Events Following Immunizations (AEFI)

- Updated Provincial [AEFI Reporting Form](#) & [AEFI Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) – available online
- Updates to the Reporting Form include:
 - Integrating select COVID-19 vaccine adverse events of special interest (AESIs) into the general AEFI categories
 - Aligning the adverse event types with the PHAC national reporting form

ADVERSE EVENT FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION REPORTING FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN ONTARIO

Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario

DO YOUR PART TO **MONITOR ADVERSE EVENTS!**



1 Advise patients to contact you or your team if they experience an adverse event after vaccination.



2 Report adverse events to your local public health unit, using Public Health Ontario's [Report of Adverse Event Following Immunization Reporting Form](#).



3 Contact your [local public health unit](#) if you have any questions about AEFI reporting.



Questions?