

INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2022

SPECIALIST OBSTETRICIANS, GYNAECOLOGISTS AND
MATERNITY SERVICES



Health

Please distribute this information to all doctors, midwives and other staff
in your practice or service

1. Influenza vaccine will be available from April 2022.
2. Pregnant women are at increased risk of severe illness or death from influenza.
3. Quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) is free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and recommended for all pregnant women, regardless of trimester.
4. Pregnant women should also receive a free pertussis vaccine between 20 and 32 weeks and COVID-19 vaccine at any stage of pregnancy.

Influenza Vaccination

- Influenza vaccination during pregnancy should be routine: safety is well established, and both maternal and infant benefit is now proven. For every five women vaccinated, it is estimated that one case of serious maternal or infant respiratory illness is prevented. It is important to increase uptake of influenza vaccine, particularly among high-risk groups like pregnant women.
- Vaccination recommendation by an antenatal care provider is one of the strongest predictors of vaccine uptake by pregnant women and should be a routine part of antenatal care.
- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends vaccination in every pregnancy and any stage of pregnancy. For more information refer to the 2022 ATAGI statement on influenza vaccinations available at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-in-2022>

Vaccine availability

- In 2022, **Vaxigrip Tetra®** (Sanofi Pasteur), **Fluarix® Tetra** (GSK) and **Afluria® Quad** (Seqirus) will be available free of charge to pregnant women under the NIP.
- These QIVs will cover A (H1N1/Victoria and H3N2/Darwin), and B (Austria and Phuket) strains.

Ordering influenza vaccine

- Vaccines will be available to order online from **Monday 7 March 2022** at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>
Ring your local public health unit on **1300 066 055** if you have not already registered for online ordering.

Co-administration of influenza vaccine with other vaccines

- Influenza vaccines may be co-administered with pertussis and/or COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy. Take the opportunity to ensure your pregnant women are up to date with their vaccinations.
- Pertussis vaccine can be given anytime between 20-32 weeks with each pregnancy and should be given as early as possible (from 20 weeks) to women who have been identified as being at high risk of early delivery.
- If co-administering Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, consider offering pertussis vaccination on a separate visit to reduce the risk of side effects. For more information visit, <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance>

Reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is mandatory

- Providers who are not currently accessing the AIR must apply for PRODA access as soon as possible as all vaccines must be reported to the AIR. Further information is available at: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda-provider-digital-access>
- NSW Health services should also record influenza vaccines administered by an external provider in eMaternity/Cerner Maternity to ensure accurate reporting from your local health district.

Further Information

- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists statement *Influenza vaccination during pregnancy* (C-Obs 45) <https://www.ranzcog.edu.au/Statements-Guidelines/>
- Australian Immunisation Handbook <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/>
- NSW Health Influenza website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu> and vaccination page <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx>

Regards
NSW Health
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NSW Ministry of Health
ABN 92 697 899 630
1 Reserve Road ST LEONARDS NSW 2065
Locked Mail Bag 2030 ST LEONARDS NSW 1590
Tel. (02) 9391 9000 Fax. (02) 9391 9848
Website. www.health.nsw.gov.au