

# SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2021

## AGED CARE FACILITIES

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility

1. All residents should receive seasonal influenza and, as appropriate, pneumococcal vaccine.
2. Flud® Quad is an adjuvanted QIV, registered for use in adults aged 65 years and over.
3. Pre-order influenza vaccine online at: [nsw.tollhealthcare.com/](http://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/) from 9 am Monday 8 March 2021. Deliveries will begin when vaccine becomes available in late March / early April.

### Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for ALL residents

- Vaccination of all residents is the single most important measure for reducing the risk of serious flu and preventing flu outbreaks.
- All persons aged 65 years and older are eligible for **free** influenza vaccine to reduce the risk of complications from influenza.
- **Vaccinating from mid-April provides protection before the peak season takes place.**
- In 2021 Flud® Quad, an enhanced quadrivalent vaccine, will be available for use in adults aged 65 years and over. For residents under 65 years, **Afluria Quad®**, can be ordered.

### Staff Influenza vaccination

- All providers of Australian Government subsidised residential aged care, must fund an annual vaccination program that offers a free vaccine to staff and volunteers.
- **Government funded vaccines provided for residents must NOT be used to vaccinate staff.**

### Ordering influenza vaccine

- **Vaccines must be ordered online. Faxed or e-mail orders are no longer accepted.**
- From 9 am Monday 8 March 2021, vaccine may be pre-ordered at: [nsw.tollhealthcare.com/](http://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/).
- To register, email the Online Ordering Registration Form: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/online-approval-form.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/online-approval-form.pdf) and requested documents to NSW Health at: [MOH-vaccreports@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-vaccreports@health.nsw.gov.au).
- Pneumococcal vaccines can also be ordered where appropriate.
- Only the person assigned with the role of managing a Residential Facility is authorised under Section 10(4)(d) of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 to order influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.

### All vaccinations must be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

- Mandatory reporting of all influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will be effective from 1 March 2021. Providers must apply for access to the AIR via PRODA now.
- Further information is available at: [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/proda-provider-digital-access](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/proda-provider-digital-access)

### Preparing for the 2021 winter flu season

Resources on the NSW Health webpage help you prepare for the upcoming flu season, and reduce the possibility of influenza transmission in your facility: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/residential-care.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/residential-care.aspx)

### Cold Chain Management

- Vaccines must be stored between 2°C to 8°C to remain potent.
- Ensure your facility stores vaccines according to the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5* available at: [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5)
- Report any cold chain breaches to your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

### Adverse events following immunisation

Report any adverse events following immunisation to your local public health unit.

### Further Information

- ATAGI advice on relative timing of administering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines in 2021: [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccines)
- Call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx)
- Australian Government Department of Health: Responsibilities of residential aged care providers: [www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/residential-aged-care/responsibilities-of-residential-aged-care-providers](http://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/residential-aged-care/responsibilities-of-residential-aged-care-providers)

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