

# 2025 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program

## Community Pharmacy

### Please distribute to all pharmacist immunisers in your pharmacy

1. From April 2025, free influenza vaccines will be available to eligible people under the National Immunisation Program.
2. Pharmacist immunisers should target all Aboriginal people and medically-at risk patients, 5 years and over, pregnant women and people aged 65 years and over.
3. Prepare your pharmacy for the influenza season by reviewing the Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit 2025 available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>
4. **Confirm your pre-allocation** of influenza vaccines online between **9am Monday 17 February 2025 and 4.30pm Friday 7 March 2025**. Deliveries will begin when the influenza vaccine becomes available.

### Annual influenza vaccination is the single most effective way to protect your patients against influenza

- Influenza vaccination reduces the severity of influenza related illness and risk of influenza related hospitalisations and deaths.
- Australian studies suggest that in 2024, vaccinated individuals were about 60% less likely to attend general practice or be hospitalised with influenza than unvaccinated people.
- Health care providers are the most trusted source of vaccine information by patients. Prepare to discuss influenza vaccine recommendations; your vaccine recommendations matter. A suite of vaccination communication support tools for health professionals is available at <https://skai.org.au/healthcare-professionals> and vaccine safety data is available at <https://ausvaxsafety.org.au/safety-data/influenza-vaccine>.

### Eligibility and timing of vaccinations

- Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over (**pharmacist immunisers are authorised to administer vaccines to people aged 5 years and over**).
- People at higher risk of serious influenza complications are eligible for free influenza vaccination under the National Immunisation Program.
- Vaccinating from mid-April provides protection before the peak season takes place.
- Prioritise all Aboriginal people and medically-at risk patients aged 5 years and over, pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy and people aged 65 years and over attending your pharmacy.
- For more information about key at risk groups refer to the *ATAGI 2025 Statement On The Administration of Seasonal Influenza Vaccines* available from early March at <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi>.

## Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with most other vaccines

- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with most other vaccines including dTpa, RSV, pneumococcal and COVID-19 vaccines. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for more information about co-administration.
- As per the Australian Immunisation Handbook, Fluvad Quad and Shingrix administration should be separated by a few days.
- Take the opportunity to ensure your patients are up to date with all their vaccinations. For more information, visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/immunisation-for-people-with-medical-risk-conditions>.

## Preparing your pharmacy

- Read the **NSW Health 2025 Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit** which includes information about vaccine storage and cold chain management available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>.
- Ensure your pharmacy software can report vaccinations to the **Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)**. Reporting of all vaccinations is **mandatory**. Further information is available at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda-provider-digital-access>.
- Pharmacist immunisers will need to complete the *Australian Immunisation Register Application to Register as a Vaccination Provider* and *NSW Pharmacist declaration form* to register as a vaccination provider with the Australian Immunisation Register available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/application-air-provider.aspx>.
- Ensure your pharmacy is **registered for online vaccine ordering with the NSW Vaccine Centre** (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/guidance-for-pharmacists-NIP-vaccines.aspx>).
- Visit our frequently asked questions and answers about influenza vaccination at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/seasonal-flu-vaccination-faqs.aspx>

## Influenza vaccine pre-allocation can be confirmed from Monday 17 February

- Your first order will be pre-allocated to ensure equitable and timely vaccine distribution to all providers in NSW.
- From **Thursday 13 February 2025**, you will receive email instructions from the NSW Vaccine Centre with details on how to accept the pre-allocation, please check your junk folder.
- You will be able to review and confirm your influenza pre-allocation from **9am Monday 17 February 2025 to 4.30pm Friday 7 March 2025. Only confirmed orders will be delivered.**
- Subsequent orders can be made online once you have received your initial order and will be delivered once all pre-allocated influenza vaccine orders have been distributed. Only order enough vaccines required for use in a maximum four-week period.
- There may be limits placed on subsequent orders to ensure equitable vaccine distribution to all providers in NSW.
- **Only schedule influenza vaccination clinics once vaccine supplies are received.**

## Vaccine deliveries will commence from late March 2025

- Influenza vaccine deliveries will commence when the vaccines become available, and orders will be despatched to practices who have reviewed and confirmed their first order pre-allocation.
- Due to the volume of orders at the beginning of the season, it takes around four weeks for the NSW Vaccine Centre to deliver all first influenza vaccine orders.

## Further information

NSW Health Influenza website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu> and vaccination page <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx>.