

2025 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program

General Practitioners and Aboriginal Medical Services

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice

1. From April 2025, free influenza vaccines will be available to eligible people under the National Immunisation Program.
2. Immunisation providers should prioritise children 6 months to under 5 years, Aboriginal people, pregnant women, people with an increased risk of complications from influenza and people aged 65 years and over. It is recommended that you send reminders to your patients and consider holding influenza vaccination clinics to support timely vaccination of at risk individuals.
3. Take the opportunity to ensure your patients are up to date with all vaccinations.
4. Prepare your practice by reviewing the Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit 2025 available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>
5. **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.
- People with chronic conditions benefit from influenza vaccination. Influenza vaccination has been associated with lower risk of cardiovascular events and can reduce the risk of influenza-related, worsening chronic lung disease and other chronic conditions such as diabetes.
- Promote childhood influenza vaccinations. Send reminders to your patients and consider holding influenza vaccination clinics to support timely vaccination of at-risk individuals.
- Infants and children under 5 years of age have a higher risk of hospitalisation and increased morbidity after influenza than older children. In 2024 in NSW **only 24.5%** of children aged 6 months to under 5 years were vaccinated against influenza.
- 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 vaccination

- Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over from mid-April to provide protection before the peak season takes place
- People at higher risk of serious influenza complications are eligible for free influenza vaccination under the National Immunisation Program including all children 6 months to under 5 years, Aboriginal people, pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy, people aged 65 years and over and people with chronic medical conditions attending your practice.
- More information about key at risk groups and timing of vaccination will be published in the ATAGI 2025 *Statement On The Administration of Seasonal Influenza Vaccines* available from early March 2025 at <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi>.

Co-administration with other vaccines

- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with most other vaccines including dTpa, RSV, pneumococcal and COVID-19 vaccines. For more information refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- As per the Australian Immunisation Handbook, Flud Quad and Shingrix administration should be separated by a few days.

Preparing your practice

- Read the **NSW Health 2025 Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit** available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>
- Ensure your practice 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>.
- If not already registered, Aboriginal Medical Services will also need to complete the *Australian Immunisation Register Application to Register as a Vaccination Provider* available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/application-air-provider.aspx>.
- Ensure your practice is **registered for online vaccine ordering with the NSW Vaccine Centre** (<https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>). If you have not already registered for online ordering, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/vaccine-ordering.aspx> for information on how to register.
- Visit our frequently asked questions and answers about influenza vaccination at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/seasonal-flu-vaccination-faqs.aspx>.

Ordering influenza vaccine - Influenza vaccine pre-allocation

- 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 your influenza vaccine 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, however subsequent orders will only 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.
- **Please only schedule influenza vaccination clinics once vaccine supplies are received.**

Vaccine deliveries

- 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 pre-allocated influenza vaccine orders.
- Vaccines **MUST** be stored between +2°C to +8°C during storage and transport and stored in their original packaging at all times (to protect them from temperature fluctuations and UV light) in accordance with the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'* available at: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5.

Further information

- NSW Health Influenza Immunisation website www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx.
- NSW Health Influenza website www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu.
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**.