

# Seasonal Influenza Vaccination 2023

## Community Pharmacy

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

1. *From April 2023, free influenza vaccines will be available to eligible people under the National Immunisation Program.*
2. *Pharmacist Immunisers should target medically-at risk patients, Aboriginal people 5 years and over, pregnant women and people aged 65 and over.*
3. *Prepare your pharmacy for the influenza season by reviewing the Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit 2023 available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu).*

### 2023 INFLUENZA VACCINATION

- Annual influenza vaccination from mid-April is the single most effective way to protect your patients and others from severe influenza and prevent hospitalisations and deaths.
- Equip yourself to make strong influenza vaccine recommendations, your vaccine recommendations matter. Refer to <https://www.ncirs.org.au/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs-and-other-resources/influenza> for more information.
- Be prepared to discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination.

### ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITY GROUPS

- Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over.
- People at higher risk of serious influenza complications are eligible for free influenza vaccination under the National Immunisation Program.
- Prioritise all Aboriginal people, pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy, people aged 65 and over and people with chronic medical conditions attending your pharmacy.
- Discuss influenza vaccination with other present family members.
- For more information about key at risk groups refer to the ATAGI 2023 *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>

### CO-ADMINISTRATION WITH COVID-19 AND OTHER VACCINES

- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Take the opportunity to ensure your patients are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- For more information visit, <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance>

## PREPARING YOUR PHARMACY

- Read the **NSW Health 2023 Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit** available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu)
- 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 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/flu.aspx>.

## ORDERING INFLUENZA VACCINE

- Your first order will be pre-allocated.
- From **Tuesday 28 February 2023**, you will receive email instructions from the NSW Vaccine Centre regarding your first order allocation, please check your junk folder.
- You will be able to review and confirm your pre-allocation on **Monday 6 March 2023** as per the email instructions from NSW Vaccine Centre. Only confirmed orders will be delivered.
- Subsequent orders can be made online once you have received your initial order and have confirmed receipt of the order on the NSW Vaccine Centre online ordering system.
- 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

- Influenza vaccine deliveries will commence when the vaccines become available and orders will be despatched to pharmacies who have reviewed and confirmed their first order allocation.
- Due to the volume of orders at the beginning of the season, it takes around three to four weeks for the NSW Vaccine Centre to deliver all first influenza vaccine orders.
- Once you have received and confirmed your first order, you can place subsequent orders. Only order enough vaccines required for use in a maximum four-week period.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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