



ISLHD Immunisation Newsletter - March

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COVID-19 Vaccines - Latest Information

The latest news and information about the COVID-19 vaccines in Australia:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines?gclid=EAlaIqobChMImO6bk->

AstraZeneca Product information

Product information for the AstraZeneca vaccine provided in the link below:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/auspar-chadox1-s-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-210215-pi.pdf>

COVID-19 Vaccines weekly safety report

The latest updated information for the COVID-19 weekly safety report is available at:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/periodic/covid-19-vaccine-weekly-safety-report-10-03-2021>

COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook

New resource:

A link to the COVID-19 vaccine communication handbook - a practical guide for improving vaccine communication and fighting misinformation

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2021/january/covid-19-vaccine-communication-handbook.html>

COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out (Phase 1B)

This document contains the latest advice for general practice on the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out.

Please note that details are continuously evolving and the information contained within this document may supersede previous advice.

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/02/covid-19-vaccination-phase-1b-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out-general-practical-guidance.pdf>

General Practice Cold Chain Self Audit

Immunisation service providers are required to use this checklist to carry out a self-audit at least once every 12 months, and more frequently if there have been problems with equipment or cold chain breaches. Documentation should be stored for future reference.

Print the checklist and use it as required.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5>

Highlights for 2021 Influenza Vaccine Formulations

A new cell-based influenza vaccines called Flucelvax Quad has been registered for use in Australia for the 2021 influenza season. This vaccine **does not use eggs** in the manufacturing process and therefore does not contain any egg protein. The vaccine can be used in people from 9 years to 64 years of age but is **NOT** funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

The vaccines that are funded are still considered safe to give to people with egg allergies (see Influenza Vaccine chapter in the Australian Immunisation Handbook for detailed information).

ALERT - Vaccine Storage

The Public Health Unit would like to remind practices that placing vaccines in eskies/coolers and transporting them to other practices/facilities (even those within a group of practices) is **NOT recommended**.

Placing vaccines in eskies/coolers is an inherently risky process and should **ONLY** be done in the event of a vaccine fridge mechanical failure.

Please DO NOT move vaccines in the event of a power failure. Leave the vaccines in the fridge and contact the Public Health Unit for advice on management.

Please DO NOT plan to move vaccines around amongst other practices in the event of over-stocking. Ensure you order **ONLY** enough vaccine to fit in **your practice fridge** at any one time.

Remember, the influenza and the Covid vaccine (initial dose numbers are likely to be limited) will be able to be ordered more frequently than monthly, so **DON'T** over order.

**SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION
2021**
**GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH
ORGANISATIONS**



Health

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice

H21/30975

1. Four age-specific influenza vaccines will be available free of charge to eligible people under government funded programs in 2021.
2. Before administering influenza vaccine, please check you have the correct vaccine for the person's age.
3. A comprehensive Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit 2021 will become available in the coming weeks at www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO INFLUENZA VACCINE ORDERING

- In 2021, a vaccine pre-allocation system will replace the current pre-order system for first orders only. This is in response to your survey answers from 2020, to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines and to reduce the vaccine wastage.
- Your first order will be pre-allocated based on your previous year's vaccine usage, including expired and discarded vaccines. You must review and confirm your order on the NSW Vaccine Centre online ordering system website (<https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>). The NSW Vaccine Centre will notify all providers of the date when pre allocated orders can be reviewed and confirmed, including instructions on what you are required to do to confirm your first order allocation.
- Deliveries of influenza vaccine will commence when vaccine becomes available. The vaccines arrive at the NSW Vaccine Centre over a period of several months from April 2021. This means that not all stock is available at the start of the vaccination program. NSW Health requests that in subsequent orders, practices only order enough vaccines required for use in a maximum four-week period.
- The questionnaire that was recently sent out for practices to report on their 2020 expired influenza vaccine stock has now closed. If you have not completed the questionnaire, there is no further action required. You will still receive a pre-allocated order.
- If you have submitted an EOI to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, it is important ensure you have enough fridge capacity to store COVID-19 and influenza vaccines
- Once you have received your initial influenza vaccine order and have receipted it on the NSW Vaccine Centre online ordering system website, a subsequent influenza vaccine order can be made online.
- Ring your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 if you have not already registered for online ordering.
- There will be limits placed on subsequent influenza orders to ensure equitable distribution to all providers in NSW.
- The large volume of influenza vaccine orders to be delivered at the beginning of the season means that it takes around three to four weeks for the NSW Vaccine Centre to send out all first influenza vaccine orders from the system.
- Providers should only schedule influenza vaccination clinics once vaccine supplies are received.
- An A4 influenza information sheet and fridge basket stickers will be sent with first deliveries of vaccine.
- **ATAGI advice on relative timing of administering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines in 2021 can be found at www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccines**
- All immunisation providers should apply to have access to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Mandatory reporting of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will be effective from 1 March 2021 and for all other vaccines from 1 July 2021. Providers who are currently using the authentication file to access the AIR, should apply for PRODA access as soon as possible. The authentication file will be disabled in 2021. Further information is available at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/proda-provider-digital-access
- Please refer to the next page for information on the 2021 influenza vaccines.

Regards

NSW Health

Vaccine eligibility under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)

| | Vaxigrip Tetra (0.5mL) | Fluarix Tetra (0.5mL) | Afluria Quad (0.5mL) | Fluad Quad [#] (0.5mL) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6 months to <5 years | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 5 years to 64 years | ✓* | ✓* | ✓* | ✗ |
| 65 years and older | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ [#] |

Please note the appropriate age indications for each vaccine.

- Ticks indicate the age at which a vaccine is registered and available. Shading represents funding under the NIP
- * = Funded only for Aboriginal people, pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions
- # = Note the higher immunogenicity vaccine for adults aged 65 years and older is now a QIV and is preferred over the standard QIVs.

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

Contact your Public Health Unit for immunisation enquiries:

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