



# ISLHD Immunisation Newsletter - May

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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=EAAtQobChMmO6bk-yf7wIVCCUrCh06ggHyE->

## Meningococcal B Vaccination

Meningococcal B vaccine is a relatively new addition to the National Immunisation Program (NIP), this is an opportunity to promote vaccination for Aboriginal children <2 years of age.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/protect-your-baby-against-meningococcal-b-now-available-on-the-national-immunisation-program-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-infants>

## NSW Immunisation Resource Order Form

To order printed copies of a NSW Health publication, print the relevant order form, fill it out and forward via email or fax. Please ensure you include the publication code and quantity required. All codes are listed on the order forms below

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/order-a-pub.aspx>

## ATAGI Statement on AstraZeneca

A statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in response to new vaccine safety concerns

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-on-astrazeneca-vaccine-in-response-to-new-vaccine-safety-concerns>

## School Immunisation Program—Term 2

The School Immunisation Program is well under way and Term 2 has commenced. We are offering Meningococcal ACWY to Year 10 students and catch up vaccination to Year 11 students who may have missed the dose in Year 10 in 2020.

Catch-up vaccinations are also offered throughout the year for Year 7 and Year 8 who may not have commenced or missed a dose in 2020.

If a child presents to the GP for their adolescent vaccinations please contact the Public Health Unit (PHU) to ensure they have not already received a dose. Records of vaccination can be found on the Australian Immunisation Register.

## Adverse Events Following Covid-19 Vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination is now available to all Australians over the age of 50 years. It is possible to have side effects after vaccination, and sometimes people may have an adverse event following vaccination (AEFI).

Most side effects of vaccination are not serious, like pain or swelling in the arm of vaccination, a fever, sore muscles or joints, tiredness and/or headaches and these usually go away in a couple of days. Other less common side effects may include feeling really sick, lumps in your neck pain in your leg and/or not sleeping well. There is a very rare side effect called TTS (Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia Syndrome) that can affect 4 to 6 people in every million who get vaccinated. This is where a blood clot stops blood from flowing normally through the body. This rare condition can cause serious long term disability or death.

If your patient has an unexpected side effect to any vaccine, you should contact the Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 as Adverse Events Following Immunisation are reportable under the Public Health Act and your Public Health Unit Immunisation can assist with advice on future doses of vaccines.

PLEASE NOTE: The preferred minimum timing between a dose of the influenza vaccine (Flu-vax) and a COVID-19 vaccination is 14 days.

Patients can use this link to find out more information on how to book their vaccine: [Vaccines Eligibility Checker \(healthdirect.gov.au\)](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/vaccines-eligibility-checker)

Patients can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080 or visit the websites below:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/what-happens-after-i-am-vaccinated-for-covid-19#reporting-symptoms>

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/information-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-about-covid-19-vaccines>

# FLUAD QUAD - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

GPs/AMSS/Aged Care Facilities and all  
Immunisation Providers



Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility

1. Reports have been received that 2020 Fluad Quad vaccines have been distributed with 2021 Fluad Quad vaccines.
  2. Please check the expiry date of all 2021 Fluad Quad vaccines that have been received since the commencement of the 2021 influenza vaccination program.
  3. Report any issues to the state vaccine centre on 1300 656 132.
- 
- NSW Health has received two reports of 2020 Fluad Quad vaccine being distributed/packaged with 2021 Fluad Quad vaccines as follows:
    - 9 doses of 2020 vaccine (batch 267537; expiry 17.01.2021) and 1 dose of 2021 Vaccine (batch 296079; expiry 8.01.2022) were packaged in a 2020 season box (batch 267537; expiry 17.01.2021)
    - 1 box of 2020 Fluad Quad (batch 267537; expiry 17.01.2021) was delivered.
  - The issue is being investigated by the Commonwealth.
  - **Your urgent action is required.**
  - Please check the expiry date of **all** 2021 Fluad Quad vaccines (including each vaccine inside each box) that have been received since the commencement of the 2021 influenza vaccination program.
  - Report any vaccine issues to the state vaccine centre on **1300 656 132**.
  - Please contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055** for clinical advice.

Many thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sonya Ennis'.

Dr Sonya Ennis  
Manager, Immunisation Unit  
**6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

# SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION

Update May 2021

SPECIALIST OBSTETRICIANS, GYNAECOLOGISTS AND  
MATERNITY SERVICES



Health

Please distribute this information to all doctors, midwives and other staff in your practice or service

H21/109644

1. **Pregnant women are at increased risk of severe illness or death from influenza.**
2. **Quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) is free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and recommended for all pregnant women, regardless of trimester.**
3. **Pregnant women should also receive a pertussis vaccine between 20 and 32 weeks.**

## Influenza Vaccination

- Influenza vaccination during pregnancy should be routine: safety is well established, and both maternal and infant benefit is now proven. For every five women vaccinated, it is estimated that one case of serious maternal or infant respiratory illness is prevented. It is important to increase uptake of influenza vaccine, particularly among high-risk groups like pregnant women.
- Offering vaccine, or recommending vaccination, by an antenatal care provider is one of the strongest predictors of vaccine uptake by pregnant women and should be a routine part of antenatal care.
- A NSW Health media campaign encouraging influenza vaccine uptake by pregnant women will be running from mid-May 2021. Pregnant women are advised to speak with their healthcare provider.
- Influenza publications can be ordered from the Better Health Centre - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Documents/influenza-publications-order-form.pdf>

## Vaccine availability

- This year, the following QIVs will be available free of charge to pregnant women under the NIP:
  - **Vaxigrip Tetra®** (Sanofi Pasteur)
  - **Fluarix® Tetra** (GSK) and
  - **Afluria® Quad** (Seqirus)
- These QIVs will cover A (H1N1/Victoria and H3N2/Hong Kong), and B (Washington and Phuket) strains.

## Ordering influenza vaccine

- Vaccines may be ordered online at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/> Ring your local public health unit on **1300 066 055** if you have not already registered for online ordering.

## Reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is mandatory

- From 1 March 2021 all influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations, and from 1 July all other NIP vaccines, must be reported to the AIR. Providers who are currently using the authentication file to access the AIR should apply for PRODA access as soon as possible. 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)

## Further Information

- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists statement *Influenza vaccination during pregnancy* (C-Obs 45) <https://www.ranzcoq.edu.au/Statements-Guidelines/>
- Australian Immunisation Handbook <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/influenza-flu>
- NSW Health Influenza website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu>
- NSW Health Immunisation website [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation)
- MotherSafe [www.mothersafe.org.au](http://www.mothersafe.org.au) or 9382 6539 (Sydney metro) or 1800 647 848 (rest of NSW)

Regards  
NSW Health  
14 May 2021

NSW Ministry of Health  
ABN 92 697 899 630  
1 Reserve Road ST LEONARDS NSW 2065  
Locked Mail Bag 2030 ST LEONARDS NSW 1590  
Tel. (02) 9391 9000 Fax. (02) 9391 9848  
Website. [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



# SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION

## Update May 2021

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and  
ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES



Health

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice

H21/109642

1. Four **age-specific** influenza vaccines are 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** is available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>

### Media campaign encouraging influenza vaccine active from mid-May 2021

- A NSW Health media campaign encouraging influenza vaccine uptake by at-risk groups will be running from mid-May 2021. People are strongly encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to arrange vaccination.
- Influenza publications can be ordered from the Better Health Centre - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Documents/influenza-publications-order-form.pdf>

### Reporting to the Australian Immunisation Registry (AIR) is mandatory

- From 1 March 2021 all influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations, and from 1 July all other NIP vaccines, must be reported to the AIR. Providers who are currently using the authentication file to access the AIR should apply for PRODA access as soon as possible. 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)

### Vaccine eligibility under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)

	Vaxigrip Tetra (0.5mL)	Fluarix Tetra (0.5mL)	Afluria Quad (0.5mL)	Fluad Quad <sup>#</sup> (0.5mL)
6 months to <5 years	✓	✓	✗	✗
5 years to 64 years	✓*	✓*	✓*	✗
65 years and older	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>#</sup>

### 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.

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](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccines)

### 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**

Regards  
NSW Health  
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