

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2020

AGED CARE FACILITIES



Health
H20/23411

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility

1. All residents should receive free seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccine (as appropriate) to protect from winter flu.
2. Fludax® Quad is an adjuvanted QIV, newly registered for use in adults ≥65 years of age
3. Pre-orders for influenza vaccine can be placed online at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/> from 9 am Monday 9 March 2020
4. Deliveries of influenza vaccine will commence when vaccine becomes available in mid-April.

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for ALL residents

- Annual flu vaccination of all residents is the single most important measure for reducing the risk of serious flu for individuals and preventing flu outbreaks.
- All persons aged 65 years and older are eligible to receive **free** seasonal influenza vaccine to reduce the risk of complications from influenza, including pneumonia.
- **Vaccinating from mid-April provides protection before the peak season takes place.**
- In 2020, Fludax® Quad an enhanced quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) will be available for use in adults ≥65 years of age. For residents <65 years, **Afluria Quad®** will also be available to order.

Staff Vaccination

- Annual influenza vaccination is also recommended for all staff of ACFs.
- All providers of residential aged care that are subsidised by the Australian Government are required to have in place an annual flu vaccination program that offers a free flu vaccine to staff and volunteers. Providers are required to cover the cost of the program.
- **Government funded vaccines provided for residents should NOT be used to vaccinate staff.**

Ordering influenza vaccine

- From 9 am Monday 9 March 2020, influenza vaccine may be pre-ordered online at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/> with deliveries scheduled to commence from mid-April. **Providers may schedule flu vaccination clinics once supplies are received.**
- Ring the State Vaccine Centre on 1300 656 132 if you are not registered for online ordering or complete the enclosed vaccine order form and fax to the NSW Vaccine Centre on 1800 041 528.
- A register template is also enclosed to record the influenza and pneumococcal vaccination status of residents.
- Only the person assigned with the role of managing a Residential Facility is authorised under Section 10(4)(d) of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 to order influenza vaccine annually (prior to and during each influenza season) and pneumococcal vaccine (throughout the year) free of charge for eligible residents.

Preparing for the 2020 winter flu season

A range of resources are available on the NSW Health webpage to help you prepare for the upcoming flu season and reduce the possibility of influenza transmission in your facility

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/residential-care.aspx>

Cold Chain Management

- Vaccines must be stored between 2°C to 8°C to remain potent.
- To support effective cold chain management please ensure your facility meets the attached '*Vaccine Cold Chain Management Minimum Requirements for Aged Care Facilities*'.
- Report any cold chain breaches to your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Adverse events following immunisation

Please report any adverse events following immunisation to your local public health unit.

Contacting your local public health unit

Please contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 if you require assistance or have any queries about this information.

For further information visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx>

Regards,

NSW Health
6 March 2020

		<p align="center">AGED CARE FACILITY INFLUENZA and PNEUMOVAX VACCINE ORDER FORM</p>
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Fax to 1800 041 528

Enquiries regarding orders/dispatch: 1300 656 132

Date:		Vaccine Account <u>Number</u>
Name of Facility/Organisation:		
Delivery Address:		Opening Hours (for delivery):
Phone:	Fax:	

COLD CHAIN DECLARATION – Please complete to ensure your order is processed

1. Is the vaccine fridge monitored with a Min/Max thermometer? Yes No
2. Has the current, minimum and maximum temperature been recorded twice daily? Yes No
3. Has the vaccine fridge temperature been between +2 to +8°C since the last vaccine order? Yes No
(Excludes excursions up to +12 °C for less than 15 minutes when opening fridge)
4. I declare that I will Yes No
 - comply with the cold chain recommendations in the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5*, and
 - adhere to the vaccine eligibility indicated on this order form and the NSW Immunisation Schedule, and

Name of person authorised* to order vaccine (please print clearly):

*Authorised persons are: the Manager or Care Manager or Director of Nursing or Nursing Unit Manager or Operations Manager or any person assigned with the role of managing a Residential Facility

VACCINE	Eligibility	Doses required
Influenza	<i>All individuals aged 65 years and older</i>	
	<i>Individuals less than 65 years with medical risk factors</i>	
Pneumovax	<i>All people aged 65 years and older Aboriginal people aged 50 years and older</i>	

March 2020

Cold Chain Management

Minimum Requirements for Aged Care Facilities

This guide is intended to be used in conjunction with Australian Department of Health and Ageing [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5 \(3rd ed\) 2019](#)

- Cold chain is the system of transporting or storing vaccine within the safe temperature range of 2°C to 8°C (strive for 5°C – the midway point).
- Cold chain breach is the exposure of vaccines to temperatures outside the recommended range of 2°C to 8°C, excluding fluctuations up to 12°C lasting less than 15 minutes when restocking, cleaning the fridge or stock taking.
- Ensure that the temperature of the fridge that will be used for vaccine storage is stable (within +2°C to +8°C) and monitored (twice daily temperature checking and recording using a battery operated minimum-maximum thermometer) for **at least 1 week prior to the delivery of vaccines**.
- Allocate a staff member who is the key contact and responsible person for cold chain management and ensure that all staff have an awareness of the main cold chain management requirements. In the absence of the delegated person (for example during leave), ensure that a back-up person has been nominated for vaccine cold chain management and twice daily fridge temperature recordings.
- Refer to the NSW Health Vaccine storage and cold chain management webpage and **online training module for staff education** and other cold chain resources available at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/cold-chain-management.aspx>
- Monitoring of the fridge's current, minimum and maximum temperatures must be recorded using a minimum/maximum thermometer recorded twice daily.
- A vaccine temperature chart can be ordered (free of charge) from the Department of Health at: <https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/strive-for-5-vaccine-fridge-temperature-chart-poster>
- **Domestic fridges are not recommended for vaccine storage. However, provisions have been made for ACFs that only access seasonal influenza vaccines. If a domestic fridge is used to store vaccines, it should be dedicated to vaccine storage only (that is no food etc is to be stored with the vaccines)**
- **Domestic refrigerators should be modified to ensure a consistent temperature can be maintained (contact your local Public Health Unit to discuss requirements).**
- Bar fridges or cyclic defrost domestic fridges must NOT be used.
- Vaccines must be refrigerated immediately after delivery. The transport cold chain monitors (heat and cold monitors) must be checked on arrival of the vaccines. If the cold chain monitors are noted to be activated, contact the NSW Vaccine Centre on **1300 656 132**.
- If a cold chain breach is noted (i.e. the temperature has been outside +2°C to +8°C , excludes fluctuations up to 12°C lasting less than 15 minutes as specified above) , notify your local PHU immunisation staff on **1300 066 055** as soon as possible. Quarantine the vaccines in the fridge and place a label on the fridge door "Do not use vaccines" until advice has been received from the PHU.

**REGISTER OF AGED CARE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED
INFLUENZA/PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE**

AGED CARE FACILITY/ORGANISATION NAME:					
YEAR:					
NAME	D.O.B.	VACCINE	BATCH NUMBER	SIGNATURE	DATE

This form should be retained by the aged care facility as a record of persons vaccinated.