

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2022

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES



Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice

1. Influenza activity is expected to increase in 2022
2. Influenza vaccines will be available free of charge to eligible people under the National Immunisation Program from April 2022.
3. Target at risk patients and take the opportunity to ensure your patients are up to date with all vaccinations
4. A comprehensive Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit 2022 is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu

2022 INFLUENZA VACCINATION

- Influenza activity is expected to increase as international borders re-open in 2022
- 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.
- Be prepared to discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with your patients. Healthcare providers are the most trusted source of vaccine information by parents and patients; your recommendation matters.

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 children 6 months to <5 years, Aboriginal people, pregnant women, people aged 65 and over and people with chronic medical conditions in your practice.
- For more information about key at risk groups refer to the ATAGI *Statement On The Administration Of Seasonal Influenza Vaccines in 2022* available at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-advice-on-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-in-2022>

COADMINISTRATION WITH COVID-19 AND OTHER VACCINES

- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Take the opportunity to ensure patients are up to date with all their vaccinations
- If co-administering Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, consider offering other vaccines on a separate visit to reduce the risk of side effects.
- For more information visit, <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance>

PREPARING YOUR PRACTICE

1. Read the **NSW Health 2022 Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit** on the NSW Health webpage for detailed advice before rolling-out the influenza vaccination program in your practice.
2. Ensure your practice has **access to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) via PRODA**, reporting of influenza and COVID vaccines is mandatory. Further information is available at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/proda-provider-digital-access>
3. Ensure your practice is **registered for online vaccine ordering with the NSW Vaccine Centre** (<https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>). Ring your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 if you have not already registered for online ordering. Faxed orders will not be accepted.
4. 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 based on your previous year's vaccine usage, including expired and discarded vaccines.
- From **Monday 7th March 2022**, you will receive email instructions from the NSW Vaccine Centre to review and confirm your first order allocation.

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Health

- Subsequent orders can be made online once you have received your initial order and have receipted it 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.

VACCINE DELIVERIES

- Deliveries of influenza vaccine will commence when vaccine becomes available and orders will be despatched to practices who have reviewed and confirmed their first order allocation.
- The vaccines arrive at the NSW Vaccine Centre over a period of several months from April 2022. 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 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.
- **Only schedule influenza vaccination clinics once vaccine supplies are received.**

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**

Regards

NSW Health

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NSW Ministry of Health

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