



Influenza Immunisation Schedule 2018

**Information for
immunisation providers**

Influenza Immunisation Program 2018

Who to vaccinate

Individuals eligible to receive funded influenza vaccine in 2018

- **All children** from 6 months to less than 5 years of age
- **All individuals ≥65 years** and older
- **Pregnant women** at any stage of pregnancy
- **All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** ≥15 years of age
- **All individuals ≥6 months of age with medical conditions** predisposing them to severe influenza

Before vaccinating, have you...

- ✓ **Checked the age of the individuals?** Choose the right influenza vaccine for the age of the person to be vaccinated
- ✓ **Determined if a child from 6 months to <9 years of age requires one or two doses** (given at least 4 weeks apart) of influenza vaccines (refer to **Additional dosage requirements**)
- ✓ **Checked the enclosed 2018 ATAGI statement on recommendations for influenza vaccination**, or find it at <https://beta.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation>

Additional dosage requirements

- **Children aged 6 months to <9 years of age** require 2 doses (at least 4 weeks apart) of influenza vaccine in the first year they receive influenza vaccine

- If a **child aged 6 months to <9 years of age** missed the second dose of influenza vaccine in the first year it was given, only 1 dose is required for subsequent years
- 2 doses (at least 4 weeks apart) are recommended **for persons ≥9 years of age with certain immunocompromising conditions** in the first year vaccine is given

Vaccine restrictions

- **Influenza vaccines are NOT registered for use in any infant <6 months of age**
- **Fluzone™ and Flud™** are ONLY registered for 65 years and older
- **Afluria Quad™** is currently NOT registered for use in any person <18 years of age
- **An adult dose (0.5mL) of any influenza vaccine CANNOT** be halved to make a paediatric dose
- **Only FluQuadri Junior™** can be used for children aged 6 months to <3 years of age

Influenza vaccines funded in 2018

Quadrivalent vaccines	Trivalent vaccines
FluQuadri Junior™ (0.25mL)	Fluzone™ (0.5mL)
FluQuadri™ (0.5mL)	Flud™ (0.5mL)
Fluarix Tetra™ (0.5mL)	
Afluria Quad™ (0.5mL)	

*Refer to enclosed schedule for further information about vaccines and dosage requirements for different age groups.

Check your vaccine storage

- Have you discarded all 2017 influenza vaccines?
- Does your vaccine fridge have enough space to store influenza vaccine along with all other vaccines?
- Remember bar fridges are not to be used to store vaccines and all fridges used for vaccine storage need to have their temperature constantly monitored
- Do not remove vaccines from their original packaging
- All vaccines supplied by Queensland Health must be stored in your practice/clinic vaccine fridge and not off site
- To assist with managing vaccine storage, influenza vaccines can be ordered weekly until May

Educate your staff about

- What to do in the event of a cold chain breach
- Who is eligible for funded vaccine

- The different influenza vaccines and dosage requirements for different age groups
- The importance of asking all patients “Are you (or your child) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?” Record this information in patient records
- How to report adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) using the QH form at: www.health.qld.gov.au/publications/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/ae-fi-reporting-form.pdf

Report vaccination records

- **All influenza vaccinations for children and adults should be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).**
- If reporting vaccinations given to DVA patients use their Medicare number to record their vaccination details on AIR
- When recording influenza vaccination for children, ensure the right vaccine is selected. Inadvertently selecting an adult vaccine when recording details for a child, may result in a follow up call from the public health unit

Influenza virus strains included in the 2018 southern hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccines

Trivalent vaccine strains

- A (H1N1): an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1) pdm09 like virus
- A (H3N2): an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016(H3N2) like virus
- B: a B/Phuket/3073/2013 like virus

Additional strain in the quadrivalent vaccine

- B: a B/Brisbane/60/2008 like virus

Persons aged 6 months and older with the medical conditions below are predisposed to severe influenza and are eligible for funded influenza vaccine

Medical condition	Vaccination strongly recommended for individuals with the following clinical conditions:
Cardiac disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cyanotic congenital heart disease ▪ Coronary artery disease ▪ Congestive heart failure
Chronic respiratory conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Severe asthma (for which frequent hospitalisation is required) ▪ Suppurative lung disease, bronchiectasis and cystic fibrosis ▪ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and chronic emphysema
Chronic neurological conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hereditary and degenerative CNS diseases¹ (including multiple sclerosis) ▪ Seizure disorders ▪ Spinal cord injuries ▪ Neuromuscular disorders
Immunocompromising conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immunocompromised due to disease or treatment (e.g. malignancy, transplantation and/or chronic steroid use) ▪ Asplenia or splenic dysfunction ▪ HIV infection
Diabetes and other metabolic disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Type 1 diabetes ▪ Type 2 diabetes ▪ Chronic metabolic disorders
Renal disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chronic renal failure
Haematological disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Haemoglobinopathies
Long-term aspirin therapy in children aged 6 months to 10 years	These children are at increased risk of Reyes syndrome following influenza infection

Please refer to the current online version of The Australian Immunisation Handbook at <http://immunise.health.gov.au/>

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