

SNAP SHOT ON INFLUENZA

An information sheet for vaccine providers

The administration of influenza vaccine is the single most important measure in preventing influenza infection and its complications. Annual vaccination before the onset of each influenza season is recommended. The period of peak influenza circulation is typically June to September for most parts of Australia.

General practice

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have released their advice for immunisation providers regarding influenza vaccine in 2018 [here](#). ATAGI recommends providers read their advice in combination with the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) and the Queensland [Influenza Immunisation Schedule 2018](#).

The [Immunise Australia Program](#) provides a range of information for health professionals and the general public on influenza including causes, symptoms, prevention and vaccination.

- [Resources for vaccination providers](#)
- [NCIRS frequently asked questions](#)
- [NCIRS information for immunisation providers](#)

Influenza vaccination in pregnancy

Influenza immunisation is recommended as a routine part of standard antenatal care and is safe to administer during any stage of pregnancy. Pregnant women are significantly more likely to accept influenza immunisation if their GP or nurse recommends it. [Click here](#) for more information.

Who in Queensland is eligible to receive a funded influenza vaccine?

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines:

- ✓ All children from six months to less than five years of age
- ✓ Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- ✓ All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people six months to less than five years of age and 15 years of age or older
- ✓ All people aged six months or older with a medical condition that places them at increased risk of complications from influenza

High-dose or adjuvanted trivalent influenza vaccine:

- ✓ All people aged 65 years or older

Example of what to say to patients

Influenza is very common. Although symptoms are usually mild, influenza can escalate into severe disease in otherwise healthy adults and children. The vaccine is one of the best tools available to reduce your risk of complications.

