

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2018

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH
ORGANISATIONS



Please distribute this information to all doctors and staff in your practice

H18/10067-1

1. **Six age-specific influenza vaccines will be available free of charge to eligible people under government programs from mid-April 2018.**
2. **Before administering influenza vaccine, please check you have the correct vaccine for the person's age.**
3. **Only FluQuadri™ Junior should be used for children aged 6-35 months.**

Vaccine availability

- Four quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIVs) for use in 2018 will cover two A strains of influenza (H1N1/Michigan and H3N2/Singapore) and two B strains of influenza (Phuket and Brisbane):
 - **FluQuadri Junior®** (Sanofi Pasteur) for **children from six months to 35 months of age**
 - **FluQuadri®** (Sanofi Pasteur) or **Fluarix® Tetra** (GSK) for people **aged three years and older**
 - **Afluria Quad®** (Seqirus) for people **aged 18 years and older only**
- Two higher immunogenicity trivalent influenza vaccines (TIVs), for use in 2018 for adults aged 65 years or older, will cover two A strains of influenza (H1N1/Michigan and H3N2/Singapore) and one B strain of influenza (Phuket):
 - **Fluzone High Dose®** (Sanofi Pasteur) or **Fluad®** (Seqirus) for people **aged 65 years and older only**

	FluQuadri Junior (0.25mL)	FluQuadri (0.5mL)	Fluarix Tetra (0.5mL)	Afluria Quad (0.5mL)	Fluzone High-Dose (0.5mL)	Fluad (0.5mL)
6 - 35 months	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
3 years and older	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
18 years and older	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
65 years and older	✗	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓	✓

QIVs can be used for adults aged 65 years and older but the higher immunogenicity TIVs are strongly recommended in preference

Vaccine eligibility

- The following groups are eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine:
 - all children aged six months to less than 5 years (including Aboriginal and medically at risk children)
 - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
 - people aged 6 months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza (see the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10th edition, at www.immunise.health.gov.au)
 - all pregnant women
 - all people aged 65 years and over

Recommendations for children

- All children six months to less than five years (59 months) are now eligible for free influenza vaccine.
- Two doses of influenza vaccine at least one month apart are recommended for eligible children aged 6 months to less than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine **for the first time**.
- Only use **FluQuadri™ Junior** for children 6 months to 35 months of age. **DO NOT ADMINISTER A HALF DOSE** of any other influenza vaccine to children aged 6-35 months as these vaccines are not licensed for this use.
- Ensure your practice software is up to date so that all vaccine doses administered to children and adults are reported to the Australian Immunisation Register.

Vaccination of doctors and practice staff

- The *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, 10th edition, (www.immunise.health.gov.au) also recommends annual influenza vaccination for all health care workers. Consideration should be given to purchasing influenza vaccine from the private market for vaccination of all doctors and practice staff. **Influenza vaccines provided free under government funded programs must not be used to vaccinate staff members.**
- Please also note that from 2018, staff working in high risk areas of public hospitals and other NSW Health facilities will be required to have annual influenza vaccinations.

Ordering influenza vaccine

- Influenza vaccine may be pre-ordered now online at: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>
- Ring the State Vaccine Centre on 1300 656 132 if you have not already registered for online ordering.
- **Deliveries of influenza vaccine will commence when vaccine becomes available in mid-April 2018.** Each delivery will include an information sheet detailing the vaccines available in 2018 and their age-specific indications.

Further Information

- Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10th edition, at: www.immunise.health.gov.au
- NSW Health Influenza website www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu
- NSW Health Immunisation website www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**

Yours sincerely



Dr Vicky Sheppeard
Director, Communicable Diseases
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2018 influenza vaccine presentations and eligibility under the National Immunisation Program



6 MONTHS TO LESS THAN 3 YEARS OF AGE

FluQuadri™ Junior

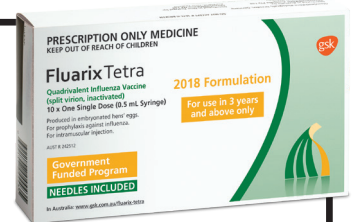
- All children aged 6 to 35 months (including Aboriginal children and those with medical risk factors)
- Give two doses one month apart if first year of receiving flu vaccine



3 YEARS TO 64 YEARS

FluQuadri™ OR Fluarix Tetra®

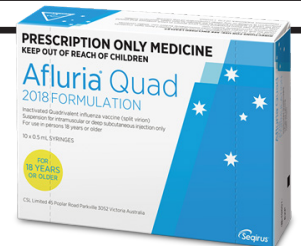
- All children 3 years to less than 5 years
- People 36 months of age to 64 years with medical risk factors predisposing to severe influenza
- Give two doses one month apart for children aged 3 to less than 9 years if first year of receiving flu vaccine
- All Aboriginal persons 36 months to 5 years of age & 15 years to 64 years
- Pregnant women
- Do not give a half dose**
- Do not use for children less than 3 years of age**



18 – 64 YEARS

Afluria Quad®

- Adults 18 to 64 years of age with medical risk factors predisposing to severe influenza
- Aboriginal adults 18 to 64 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Do not use for persons less than 18 years of age**



65 YEARS AND OVER (only)

Fluzone High Dose®

- Trivalent vaccine
- 4 times dose of influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B-Yamagata strains
- All persons aged 65 years and over

Fluad®

- Trivalent vaccine
- Influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B-Yamagata strains with MF59 adjuvant
- All persons aged 65 years and over



NSW Health Influenza posters and other resources



A wide range of influenza-related posters and other resources are available for NSW healthcare providers, hospitals, residential care facilities and other institutions.

Visit the Influenza resources website to see the full range of NSW Health influenza resources available:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/resources.aspx

These resources can be printed directly from the website or ordered free from the NSW Health Better Health Centre.

RESOURCE CATEGORIES	EXAMPLES
General resources	<i>Don't Spread Flu</i> (poster)
Influenza vaccination in pregnancy	<i>Vaccinate against flu. Protect your baby too.</i> (posters and brochures)
Posters for the Aboriginal community	<i>Protect your little one from flu</i> (poster) <i>Protect your mob from flu</i> (poster)
Medically At-Risk	<i>Are you at risk of severe flu?</i> (posters and brochures)
Posters for Hospitals / Healthcare Settings	<i>Stop Flu!</i> (posters for entrances, EDs and wards)
Residential Care Facilities	<i>Help us protect residents</i> (poster for entrances)

To order printed copies of influenza-related resources from the Better Health Centre

1. Go to the NSW Health Order a Publication webpage: www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/order-a-pub.aspx
2. Print the Influenza Publications Order Form: www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Documents/influenza-publications-order-form.pdf
3. Fill out the Influenza Publications Order Form, ensuring you include the publication code and quantity required. All codes are listed on the order form.
4. Forward the completed Order Form to the Better Health Centre via email or fax:
Email: nslhd-bhc@health.nsw.gov.au
Fax: (02) 9887-5452