



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care



National
Immunisation
Program

A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

National Immunisation Program - 2025 Influenza (Flu) vaccination information for health professionals from the Chief Medical Officer

KEY MESSAGES

- Annual influenza vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications. It is recommended for all people 6 months of age and over.
- Influenza vaccination is particularly important for those most at risk, with the need to improve uptake in children under 5, pregnant women and First Nations people.
- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered (given on the same day) with any COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines.
- All vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). It is important to complete the new "vaccine type" field to specify the circumstances of the vaccine administered (e.g., NIP, pregnancy, etc.).

Dear Colleague

As we approach the upcoming influenza season, I want to emphasise the critical role of annual vaccination in preventing influenza. Vaccination is an important measure for everyone aged 6 months and over, and I urge you to focus on improving uptake, especially among children aged under 5, pregnant women and First Nations people.

I am deeply concerned about the continued declining uptake of influenza vaccines among all cohorts. Last year, uptake declined to 25.8% of children under 5, down from 30.3% in 2023. Uptake in people aged 65 and older declined to 61.1% in 2024 - this is a marked decrease from uptake rates of 63.6% in 2023 and 69.7% in 2022. Pregnant women face higher risks of hospitalisation and their vaccination rates remain suboptimal. First Nations people have the lowest reported uptake rates among the priority target groups. In First Nations children under 5, uptake was 18.3%, down from 23.1% in 2023.

Given the heightened risks of respiratory disease during winter, please consider co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines where appropriate. Also, take steps to ensure your patients are up to date with all vaccinations.

The 2025 National Immunisation Program (NIP) influenza vaccines will be available to order from April 2025, subject to local supply arrangements. Please note that the timing of availability of NIP influenza vaccines may vary from privately purchased vaccines.

The NIP provides funded influenza vaccines for the following groups:

- children aged 6 months to less than 5 years
- pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)
- First Nations people aged 6 months and over
- people aged 65 years and over, and
- people aged 6 months and over with certain medical conditions.

The peak influenza season is typically June to September in most parts of Australia. To ensure optimal protection during this time, annual influenza vaccination is recommended from mid-April onwards. However, vaccination can commence as soon as vaccine stock becomes available. Influenza vaccines can be safely co-administered on the same day as any COVID-19 vaccine.

The Australian Government is supporting targeted communication campaigns again this year to promote influenza vaccination.

To prepare for the season:

- **Discard** expired vaccines in accordance with your local protocols.
- **Order** 2025 vaccines through the usual channels in your state or territory.
- **Promote** the free vaccine to eligible people and priority groups, emphasising the recommendation from a trusted health professional.
- **Consider** opportunities to co-administer with COVID-19 and other vaccines where appropriate.
- **Ensure** vaccine safety by verifying your patient's age and using the correct influenza vaccine.
- **Stay informed** by subscribing to our mailing list for the latest [NIP updates](#). The Department's influenza information can be accessed from health.gov.au/flu.

I strongly encourage you to review the attached information, including the ATAGI statement and the NIP influenza vaccination program advice. I hope I can count on your assistance in distributing this important information throughout your network.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact immunisation.enquiries@health.gov.au.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and contribution to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Yours sincerely



Professor Anthony Lawler
Chief Medical Officer

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Encl. ATAGI Statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2025
2025 NIP influenza vaccination program advice for health professionals
2025 NIP influenza vaccination consumer factsheet