



PRIMARY CARE PREPAREDNESS

WINTER

April 2025

Flu and COVID

Influenza and COVID-19 can be life threatening, especially for vulnerable people. Vaccination against both is critical for people to not only protect themselves, but to reduce the risk of spread to others.

Influenza vaccines can be given at the same time as others, including diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pneumococcal and COVID-19. For more information see the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

The influenza vaccine is free to eligible groups through the National Immunisation Program (NIP):

- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months and older
- pregnant women during any stage of pregnancy
- all people aged 65 years and older
- people aged six months and older with medical conditions that may increase the risk of complications from severe influenza
- children aged six months to less than five years

If a person had a 2024 formulation of influenza vaccine in late 2024 or early 2025, it is still recommended that they receive a 2025 formulation of influenza vaccine once available. See [ATAGI statement](#) for more.

NIP funded influenza vaccines by age group			
Age group	Quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIVs)		
	Fluad® Quad 0.50 mL (CSL Seqirus)	Flucelvax® Quad 0.50 mL (CSL Seqirus)	Vaxigrip Tetra® 0.50 mL (Sanofi)
6 months to <5 years	DO NOT USE	NOT FUNDED	✓
≥5 to <60 years	DO NOT USE	✓*	✓*
≥60 to <65 years	DO NOT USE	✓*	✓*
≥65 years	✓	NOT FUNDED	NOT FUNDED

Table 1. Seasonal influenza vaccines registered and available for use in Australia in 2025, by age

Vaccine	Vaxigrip Tetra 0.5 mL (Sanofi)	Flucelvax Quad 0.5 mL (CSL Seqirus)	FluQuadri 0.5 mL (Sanofi)	Afluria Quad 0.5mL (CSL Seqirus)	Influvac Tetra 0.5 mL (Viatris)	Fluad Quad 0.5 mL (CSL Seqirus)	Fluzone High- Dose 0.7 mL (Sanofi)
Registered age group							
6 months to <5 years	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
≥5 to <60 years	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓	X	X
≥60 to <65 years	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
≥65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ticks indicate age at which a vaccine is registered and available. White boxes indicate availability for free under the NIP.

* NIP funding only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and people who have certain medical conditions.

Influenza vaccination for pregnant women

The influenza vaccine is recommended for every pregnant person at any stage of pregnancy and can safely be given at the same time as a pertussis, RSV or COVID-19 or other vaccines indicated in pregnancy as required.

For pregnant women who received an influenza vaccine in 2024, it is recommended to also give the 2025 influenza vaccine if it becomes available before the end of pregnancy.

For pregnant women who receive influenza vaccine before becoming pregnant, revaccination is recommended during pregnancy to maximise the protection of the mother and the infant in the first six months of life.

Immunisation providers must report all influenza vaccine doses administered to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). **Check** that you use the correct influenza vaccine brand and AIR code:

- VaxiGrip Tetra® - VAXTET
- Flucelvax® Quad - FCELQD
- Fluad® Quad - FLUQAD
- FluQuadri® - FQUAD

And ensure you report the correct batch numbers to AIR. Batch numbers are on the vaccine box or syringe. It is important to check this information is correct before submitting to AIR.

For further information regarding NIP-funded Influenza vaccines refer to:

- [ATAGI Statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2025](#)
- [2025 Influenza vaccination – Program advice for health professionals](#)
- [Australian Immunisation Handbook – Influenza \(flu\)](#)

Vaccine supply

Government funded influenza vaccines are now available to order online for the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and the Victorian public hospital healthcare worker (HCW) influenza program. The Victorian Immunisation Unit advises:

- Strict order limits are in place for NIP vaccine until Vaxigrip Tetra becomes available in mid-April. Any changes to order limits will be communicated via your [Onelink](#) ordering template. No order limits will be applied to Healthcare Worker vaccine.
- Order Frequency: weekly orders (at least seven days apart) are supported April-June 2025.
- Allow a minimum of five to seven days during influenza vaccine season for processing and delivery of your vaccine order. Note there are no deliveries to regional areas on Mondays.
- Refrain from placing another order until the previous order has been delivered.
- Report all vaccine stock on hand when placing an order.
- Order influenza and all other government funded vaccines in combined orders.
- Order vaccine quantities in doses, not packs.
- Report all vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Providers may be required to justify requests and AIR encounters will be audited.

AIR

It is now mandatory for all vaccines administered to be reported to the AIR, including:

- information about the vaccine type for all vaccines prescribed by the AIR Rule including COVID-19, Influenza, National Immunisation Program (NIP) and JEV vaccines.
- from March 2025, it is also mandatory requirement to report information whether an individual was pregnant at the time of vaccine administration.

For more see:

- [Mandatory reporting changes to the Australian Immunisation Register \(AIR\) from 1 March 2025 | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [AIR Tip – 12 February 2025 | NCIRS](#)

Covid-19

Booster dose recommendations

- People aged 75 years and over: booster dose **recommended every 6 months**.
- People aged 65 to 74 years: booster dose **recommended every 12 months**. Can consider every six months.
- People aged 18 to 64 years:
 - General population: consider booster dose every 12 months.
 - Severe immunocompromise: booster dose **recommended every 12 months**. Can consider every six months.
- Adolescents aged 5 to 17 years:
 - General population: booster dose **not recommended**.
 - Severe immunocompromise: consider booster dose every 12 months.
- Children aged under 5 years: booster dose **not recommended**.

Primary course recommendations

- People aged 18 years and over: recommend a **single dose** primary course.
- People aged under 18 years: primary course **not recommended**.
- Adolescents aged 5 to 18 years:
 - With risk factors: consider a **single dose** primary course.
 - With severe immunocompromise: recommend a **two-dose** primary course. Consider a third primary dose.
- Children aged 6 months to 5 years:
 - With risk factors: consider a **two-dose** primary course. Consider a third primary dose based on individual risk-benefit assessment.
 - With severe immunocompromise: recommend a **two-dose** primary course. Consider a third primary dose.

Pneumococcal

Pneumococcal disease is a bacterial infection, that is especially serious for young children and older people. It can cause pneumonia, bloodstream infection and meningitis. The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends pneumococcal vaccination for specific groups including:

- routine vaccination in infants and children
- non-Indigenous adults aged 70 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 50 years and over
- children, adolescents and adults with risk conditions for pneumococcal disease.

There are two types of pneumococcal vaccines provided free under the NIP: Prevenar 13 (13vPCV) and Pneumovax 23 (23vPPV), for different age groups and circumstances:

- all children at two, four and 12 months of age (three doses in total)
- an extra dose at six months for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who live in Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia or South Australia, in addition to the three doses for all children (four doses in total)
- children under 12 months who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk of getting serious pneumococcal disease (six doses in total over a number of years)
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years or older (three doses in total)
- all non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 70 years or older (one dose)
- all people 12 months and older who have certain medical conditions that put them at higher risk of getting serious pneumococcal disease (three doses in total)

The optimal pneumococcal vaccination program for Australia is currently under review. At present Prevenar 13 (13vPCV) and Pneumovax 23 (23vPPV) are the pneumococcal vaccines funded under the NIP for eligible individuals. Updates to this chapter include interim recommendations for use of extended valency vaccines (Vaxneuvance [15vPCV] and Prevenar 20 [20vPCV]) in the populations for whom they have recently been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration; these vaccines are not currently NIP-funded.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common, highly contagious virus that infects the airways and lungs. The main treatment for RSV infection is rest and plenty of fluids. Regular handwashing and good personal hygiene (covering coughs and sneezes) can stop RSV from spreading. For more about prevention, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, see [healthdirect's RSV page](#).

Who should get protected against RSV

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends RSV vaccination for specific groups including:

- women at 28 to 36 weeks pregnancy
- infants and children under 2 years of age
 - whose mothers were not vaccinated at least two weeks before delivery
 - who are at increased risk of severe disease
 - who have medical conditions or circumstances that increase their risk of RSV disease
- First Nations people aged 60 years and older
- people aged 60 years and older with medical conditions that increase their risk of severe RSV disease
- people aged 75 years and older.

States and territories provide the RSV immunisation product Beyfortus™ (nirsevimab) for free to eligible infants and children including:

- infants up to eight months and children up to two years:
 - whose mother did not receive the RSV vaccine during pregnancy
 - who were born within two weeks after the mother receiving an RSV vaccine
 - who have a condition or circumstance that increases their risk of severe RSV disease
- young children aged eight to under two years who have certain risk conditions for severe RSV disease are recommended to receive the RSV immunisation product before their second RSV season.

Maternal vaccine

The maternal RSV vaccine (Abrysvo®) is free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for women at 28–36 weeks pregnancy (prior to 37 weeks) to protect their baby. When a pregnant woman receives the maternal RSV vaccine, their immune system produces antibodies against RSV in the first couple of weeks after vaccination. These antibodies are transferred through the placenta to the baby's bloodstream. The antibodies help protect the infant against RSV from birth. The process of providing antibodies from mother to baby is a form of passive immunisation and provides protection to the infant for up to six months from birth.

- [Access the 2025 toolkit for immunisation providers](#)

Vaccination campaigns

Download free campaigns from [Murray PHN's COVID webpage](#).

For more information and resources

Influenza information for immunisation providers:

- [Victorian Department of Health Seasonal influenza vaccine](#)
- [Victorian Department of Health Influenza toolkit 2025](#)
- [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation - Statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2025](#)
- [2025 Influenza vaccination program advice for health professionals](#)
- [Australian Immunisation Handbook - Influenza\(flu\)](#)

For consumers:

- [Getting vaccinated against influenza - Resource collection](#)
- [Better Health Channel influenza \(flu\) - immunisation](#)
- [Talking about vaccination with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families](#)

Murray HealthPathways:

- [Immunisation Suite](#)
- [Child - Respiratory Suite](#)
- [Adult Respiratory Suite](#)
- [COVID-19 Suite](#)

To request free access to Murray HealthPathways, [click here](#).

Digital health

- [Enhancing winter preparedness and care delivery with digital health](#)

Contact

Immunisation providers needing assistance can email: primarycareresponse@murrayphn.org.au

General practices can also contact their local Quality Improvement Consultant at gpsupport@murrayphn.org.au

