

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2022 AGED CARE FACILITIES

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility

1. All residents should receive seasonal influenza and, as appropriate, pneumococcal and zoster vaccine.
2. Fludax® Quad is an enhanced QIV, registered for use in adults aged 65 and over.
3. Pre-order influenza vaccine online at: nsw.tollhealthcare.com/ from Monday 7 March 2022. Deliveries will begin when vaccine becomes available in early April.

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for ALL residents

- Vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 65 and over to reduce the risk of influenza complications and to prevent influenza outbreaks in aged care facilities.
- All residents in aged care facilities are eligible for **free** influenza vaccine.
- **Vaccinating from mid-April provides protection before the peak season takes place.**
- In 2022, Fludax® Quad, an enhanced quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV), will be available for use in residents aged 65 years and over. For residents under 65 years, Afluria Quad®, can be ordered.

COVID-19 and other vaccines

- Influenza vaccines can be given on the same day as COVID-19 vaccines.
- Take the opportunity to ensure residents are up to date with **Pneumococcal** vaccinations as recommended in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.
- If co-administering Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, consider offering other vaccines on a separate visit to reduce the risk of adverse events.
- For more information visit, <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance>

Staff Influenza vaccination

- All providers of Australian Government subsidised residential care, must fund an annual vaccination program that offers a free vaccine to staff and volunteers.
- **Government funded vaccines provided for residents must NOT be used to vaccinate staff.**

Ordering influenza vaccine

- From **Monday 7 March 2022**, influenza vaccines must be **pre-ordered online** at: nsw.tollhealthcare.com/.
- If your facility does not already have an account, register by emailing the Online Ordering Registration Form: www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Documents/online-approval-form.pdf and requested documents to NSW Health at: MOH-vaccreports@health.nsw.gov.au. Faxed orders will not be accepted.
- Pneumococcal vaccines can also be ordered as required.
- Only the person assigned with the role of managing a Residential Facility is authorised under Section 10(4)(d) of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 to order influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.

All vaccinations must be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

- Reporting of all influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to the Australian Immunisation Register is mandatory.
- Providers must apply for access to the AIR via PRODA **now**, for more information visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/proda-provider-digital-access

Preparing for the 2022 winter flu season

Resources on the NSW Health webpage help you prepare for the upcoming flu season, and reduce the possibility of influenza transmission in your facility: www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/residential-care.aspx

Cold Chain Management

Vaccines must be stored between +2°C to +8°C in accordance with the *National Vaccine Storage Guidelines Strive for 5* available at: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5

- Report any cold chain breaches to your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Adverse events following immunisation

Report any adverse events following immunisation to your local public health unit.

Further Information

- Call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx
- Australian Government Department of Health: Responsibilities of residential aged care providers: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/residential-aged-care/responsibilities-of-residential-aged-care-providers

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