



**BRISBANE SOUTHSIDE POPULATION HEALTH UNIT
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL SERVICES**

Enquiries to: CDCS
Telephone: 07) 3000 9148
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Dear Vaccine Service Provider

Re: Seasonal influenza vaccination 2011

I am writing to provide you with details about the seasonal influenza vaccination program in 2011 and to ask you to encourage and promote influenza vaccination among your staff, colleagues and patients.

In 2011 the seasonal influenza vaccine will include the following strains:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

*Seasonal influenza vaccination in 2011 is recommended and **available free** for:*

- All individuals ≥ 65 years of age
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ≥ 15 years of age
- Individuals ≥ 6 months of age with conditions predisposing to severe influenza*
- Pregnant women*

*Seasonal influenza vaccine in 2011 is recommended (**but not available for free**) for:*

- Homeless people and those providing care to them
- Close contacts of those at high risk of complications from influenza (staff of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, healthcare providers, household contacts)
- People providing essential services
- People involved in the commercial poultry industry or in culling poultry during confirmed avian influenza activity
- Travellers (large tourist groups, esp. those travelling on cruises during influenza season)

Seasonal influenza vaccines for children in 2011

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the use of *Influvac* and *Vaxigrip* for use in children between 6 months to less than 5 years of age.
- *Fluvax* is **not registered** for use in children less than 5 years in 2011
- For children aged 5 to less than 10 years of age, it is recommended that *Vaxigrip* or *Influvac* is used.
- *Fluvax* may be used in children aged 5 years to less than 10 years when no alternative vaccine is available. If *Fluvax* is used in this age group, parents should be informed of the potential increased risk of fever, but that febrile convulsions are rare in this age group.

Vaccine Service Providers are asked to record numbers of funded seasonal influenza vaccines administered to 'medical at risk' patients on a tally sheet (provided with your vaccine order). Please find attached an information sheet on the Annual Funded Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Program and a tip sheet to help you prepare for this year's influenza vaccine program.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brad McCall

Public Health Physician

Brisbane Southside Public Health Unit

25/02/2011

*For further details, please refer to the ninth edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook, p. 190 – 192.

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Getting you ready ... Check List and Tips for Flu Season 2011

FRIDGE	Is your fridge monitored daily, and consistently reads between 2° and 8°? <i>If not please contact QHIP as soon as possible on 3328 9888.</i>
	Check your fridge capacity – can you hold your additional influenza vaccine stock comfortably as well as your other vaccines?
	Does your fridge require any maintenance?
	Do you need to change the battery in the thermometer? This should be done at least annually.
COOLERS (eg Esky, Willow)	Do you have enough coolers to cater for a cold chain breach and/or off-site clinics?
	Is your cooler adequate in size?
	Do you have enough thermometers?
	Do you have enough cold packs?
	Are your staff equipped & educated to handle a cold chain breach?
PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL	Free brochures and posters on influenza and other vaccines can be obtained from www.immunise.health.gov.au
	Go to "Publications & Resources" (5 th button down on left) then select "Search" to see all available resources - scroll down the page once it reloads to view them all. You can click on the resource to view it online - you can then either print them, or some can also be ordered as hard copies.
ELIGIBILITY	Those eligible for funded influenza vaccination are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) All individuals ≥65 years of age • (ii) All Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people ≥15 years of age • (iii) All pregnant women • (iv) Individuals ≥6 months of age with conditions predisposing to severe influenza as listed on pp 190 & 191 of The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th edition. Please see the influenza schedule provided in your first vaccine delivery or at the following website: www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/annualfluschedule.pdf
	Do you require extra Pneumovax 23? Adults eligible for funded Pneumovax 23 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) All individuals ≥65 years of age • (ii) All Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people ≥50 years of age, and those Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 - 49 years who have chronic illnesses associated with increased risk of invasive pneumococcal disease – such as heart, kidney or lung disease; diabetes; alcohol-related problems and tobacco smokers. QHIP can provide hard copies of the "Eligibility for Funded Vaccines" Schedule or it is also available at: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/documents/nips_antigens.pdf
DISTRIBUTION	Flu vaccination clinics should not be organised until <u>after</u> you have received your first vaccine order.
	When placing orders, use the correct and up to date order form available at: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/documents/vaccinerequestform.pdf Ensure you record correct quantities, expiry dates and quantity required.
	After 15 th March, you can place your flu orders weekly for the first two months - standard vaccine orders will be done monthly with a flu order.
	If your surgery is closed and you can't receive your order please advise QHIP - don't forget to let us know about local public holidays!
	Unpack, count and refrigerate your vaccines as soon as you receive your order.