

April 6th 2020

### Contents:

- Immunisation education—free livestream session Wednesday 8 April 2020 6-9pm
- FAQ's this week

### Attachments

- FLYER - Immunisation Education LIVESTREAM
- Fax to GPs regarding Seasonal Influenza Vaccination 2020
- 2020 influenza vaccine presentations and eligibility



### Contact your PHU for Immunisation enquiries

Phone: 1300 066 055

Fax: 4924 6490

Email: HNELHD-PHImmunisation@health.nsw.gov.au

## Annual Immunisation Update Education

### For nurse/midwife immunisers and also suitable for Non-Current nurse/midwife immunisers.

This replaces our usual face to face immunisation updates for HNELHD area. For practice nurses & HNE nurses.

Influenza season is almost here, nurse and midwife immunisers are needed to help vaccinate the district's workforce as quickly as possible and keep our immunisation rates high. With the COVID-19 response in full swing it's now more important than ever that frontline staff are protected for their own health and wellbeing and the safety of their patients.

This comprehensive 2020 Immunisation Update session is sufficient education for an authorised nurse immuniser (once annual CPR is completed). It also can be for nurse and midwife non-current immunisers to complete reauthorisation.

**WHEN:** Wednesday 8th April, 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm via live stream

[Click here to Register](#)

Please register so you can ask questions on the night or so you can get the link to watch it later at your convenience. (not on My Health Learning)

At the completion of this event participants will:

- Have an understanding the requirements of the 2020 national influenza vaccination program including recommendations, vaccines available, contra indicators and where to get resources
- Recognise the importance of recognition and reporting of Adverse Event Following Immunisation
- Have an understanding of the new NSW Vaccine cold chain management requirements
- Have an overview of the National Immunisation Program
- Understand the current NSW School program
- Updated on COVID -19
- Have an understanding of anaphylaxis recognition & management
- Overview of global immunisation issues

---

## Frequently asked questions we received this week

### 1. Can I take my influenza vaccines out of their packaging to make more room in my fridge?

**NO!!** Never! As per Strive for Five Pg 38 Vaccines MUST be stored in their original packaging because this helps protect them from temperature fluctuations and UV light and protects against medication errors.

### 2. Should a pharmacist be recommending a second influenza vaccine to patients who are eligible for a funded vaccine?

**No.** A pharmacist should be advising patients during the pre-vaccination screening that they are eligible for a funded influenza vaccine and refer to a NIP provider (ie GP practice) and not offer a dose at the pharmacy. A second dose of influenza vaccine is not routinely recommended.

### 3. Can patients aged 65 years and over be given standard quadrivalent vaccines if the enhanced quadrivalent vaccine (Fluad® Quad) is not available?

**Yes.** However, people aged 65 and over should receive the enhanced quadrivalent vaccine (Fluad® Quad) over other standard quadrivalent vaccines. The enhanced vaccine has been specially formulated to create a greater immune response amongst the elderly, who are known to have a weaker response to immunisation. However, if Fluad® Quad is not available people aged 65 years and over can safely receive other standard quadrivalent influenza vaccines.

### 4. When will my vaccines arrive?

**Soon.** If your influenza vaccines have not arrived by mid April please call the [NSW Vaccine Centre on 1300 656 132](tel:1300656132)

### 5. When should I start immunising with influenza vaccine?

As soon as you have the vaccines. The influenza vaccine will not protect you against COVID-19. However it will protect you against influenza and help reduce the severity and spread of influenza this winter and reduce influenza hospitalisations.

### 6. Can influenza vaccines cause the influenza?

There is no live virus in the influenza shot, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine. The myth that the vaccine causes influenza probably results from a misinterpretation of mild vaccine side effects, which are a sign that the body is responding to the vaccine and producing protection against the actual disease for when you may come into contact with it.

### 7. Can someone who is 65 or over who received the flu vaccine for people under 65 years of age receive a subsequent dose of one of the vaccines for people 65 years of age and over?

The [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation](#) advises that revaccination in the same year is not routinely recommended, however some people may benefit due to personal circumstances such as pregnancy or travel.

### Where can I get more information?

Check the FAQ on [NSW Health website](#)

Look on our website [HNE PHU Influenza 2020](#)

---