

SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION 2011 (3 March 2011)

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS and ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Please distribute this information to all of your practice staff

1. Deliveries of seasonal influenza vaccine commenced on Tuesday 1 March 2011. The National Influenza Vaccination Program formally commences on 15 March 2011.
2. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation has provided recommendations on influenza vaccination for children aged 6 months to less than 5 years of age.
3. The *General Practice Vaccine Order Form* (that includes influenza) is attached.

Vaccine Information:

- The 2011 seasonal influenza vaccine protects against three virus strains likely to circulate this year, including:
 - Influenza A (H1N1) (pandemic strain)
 - Influenza A (H3N2)
 - Influenza B

Eligibility:

- In 2011, the following groups are eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine:
 - all individuals aged 65 years and older
 - all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over
 - pregnant women
 - individuals aged 6 months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza, such as those with cardiac disease, chronic respiratory conditions, other chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up or hospitalisation in the previous year, chronic neurological conditions that impact on respiratory function, impaired immunity, and children aged 6 months to 10 years on long term aspirin therapy (see the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, 9th edition, pp.190-191, for more information)

Recommendations for children:

- 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 under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). Fluvax is not registered for use in children less than 5 years of age in 2011. For children aged 5 to less than 10 years of age, it is recommended that Vaxigrip® and Influvac® is used. Fluvax® may be used in children aged 5 years to less than 10 years when no alternative vaccine is readily available. If Fluvax® is administered parents should be informed of the potential risk of fever but that febrile convulsions are rare in this group. The full ATAGI statement including the rationale for these recommendations is available at www.immunise.health.gov.au. Instructions on how to administer a 0.25 mL paediatric dose of Influvac® or Vaxigrip® for children aged 6 months and over to less than 36 months of age will be provided with every delivery of vaccine.

Adverse Event Reporting

- Immunisation providers are encouraged to report any adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) directly to your local Public Health Unit available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/phus/phus.html>

Ordering Vaccine and more information:

More information and order forms for seasonal influenza vaccine are available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation>

Yours sincerely



Dr Jeremy McAnulty

Director Centre for Health Protection

Fax to 1800 041 528

Enquiries regarding orders/dispatch: 1300 656 132

PROVIDER DETAILS		
Date:	Number of GPs in practice:	Vaccine Account <u>Number</u>
Practice Name:		
Delivery Address:		Opening Hours (for delivery):
Phone:	Person ordering vaccine:	
Fax:		

COLD CHAIN DECLARATION – Please complete to ensure your order is processed

Is the vaccine fridge monitored with a Min/Max thermometer? Y N
 How often is the temperature recorded? _____

Have vaccine fridge temperatures been between +2 to +8°C since the last vaccine order? Y N
 (Excludes excursions up to +12°C for less than 15 minutes when opening fridge)

In order to receive free Australian Government vaccines, I agree that this facility will comply with cold chain recommendations in the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5*.

GP/Practice Manager (print):

Signature:

VACCINE ORDER FOR ONE MONTH

		Doses in Fridge	Doses to be Supplied
Hiberix			
Infanrix hexa			
Infanrix - IPV			
Meningitec	<i>Unvaccinated persons aged less than 28 years</i>		
Pneumovax 23			
Prevenar			
Priorix	<i>Unvaccinated persons born after 1966</i>		
Rotarix (ORAL vaccine)			
Varilrix			
Seasonal Influenza	<i>All persons aged 65 and older Indigenous persons aged 15 and older Patients 6 months to 64 years at risk[#] Pregnant women</i>		
Seasonal Influenza (Paediatric)			

[#] patients at risk of severe outcomes from influenza such as those with chronic conditions, including cardiac disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and renal failure (see the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, p.190-191)