

2020 Healthcare worker influenza immunisation program

Information

(revised 3 April 2020)

For: Infection Control Professionals, Pharmacists and Chief Executives

The Department of Health and Human Services supplies public health services free influenza vaccine for healthcare workers (HCWs) through the Healthcare worker influenza immunisation program.

Maintaining a high level of immunity in the HCW population ensures the risk of transmitting influenza to co-workers, vulnerable patients and their family is minimised. It is therefore recommended that all direct clinical care staff, including residential aged care staff and community health staff, should have the influenza vaccine.

Thank you for your participation

In 2019, 88 per cent of HCWs were vaccinated. Up from 83 per cent the year before. This included 91 per cent of HCWs in emergency departments and 92 per cent in intensive care units.

This is the highest overall rate we have achieved since the statewide program started. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Influenza vaccine brands supplied for the 2020 program

Quadrivalent influenza vaccine brands available

Note: Health services will not be able to preference one quadrivalent brand over another.

Afluria Quad® (Seqirus)

- Indicated for use in people aged five years and over.
- Latex free
- Pre-filled syringe
- Injection needle not included.

FluQuadri™ (Sanofi)

- Latex free
- Pre-filled syringe
- Injection needle not included.

Quadrivalent influenza vaccine indicated for use for people aged 65 years and over

Fluad Quad® (Seqirus)

- Latex free
- Pre-filled syringe
- Injection needle not included.

Composition of the influenza virus vaccine in 2020

Quadrivalent vaccine

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- A/South Australia/34/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Washington/02/2019-like virus (B/Victoria lineage) virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage) virus

The effectiveness of the influenza vaccine is optimal in the first three to four months after vaccination, therefore it is important to have an influenza vaccination annually.

Pharmacy orders

The HCW influenza vaccine stock is available to order by using the Public hospital healthcare worker influenza vaccine order form at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccine-order-and-stock/vaccine-order-forms>.

For information relating to vaccine availability and delivery timelines and for any questions relating to the vaccine ordering process, please call the Immunisation Section, Department of Health and Human Services on 1300 882 008 or email: immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Promotional and support materials

Sanofi and Seqirus have a selection of influenza vaccination program support materials to promote awareness and education in your health service. Resource order forms are available at <https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination/>.

Health services can choose to display program support materials from either or both suppliers. There is no requirement that health services use the promotional resources to match the vaccine brand received.

Concern about influenza vaccine and allergy

Information about allergic reaction to influenza vaccine is available through Victoria's vaccine safety service by calling 1300 882 924 and choosing option 1.

Find out more about egg allergy and influenza vaccination at <http://www.mvec.vic.edu.au/immunisation-references/allergy-and-immunisation>.

Vaccine cold chain management

All immunisation providers should ensure effective cold chain management of vaccines in line with the *National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5* and the vaccine cold chain protocol checklist available at www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/cold-chain-management.

Cold chain management is the system of transporting or storing vaccine within the safe temperature range of 2°C to 8°C (with the optimal temperature being 5°C – the midway point).

A cold chain breach is the exposure of vaccines to temperatures outside the recommended range of 2°C to 8°C, excluding planned fluctuations up to 12°C lasting no more than 15 minutes for restocking, cleaning the fridge or stock taking.

Data collation, monitoring and reporting of HCW influenza vaccination uptake

2020 target

We are aiming to improve on last year, as we strive for as high as possible vaccination rate.

For 2020, a whole of health service target of **90 per cent** has been set for the public health sector.

For frontline (risk Category A/B) staff health services are to aim for a 100 per cent vaccination rate

The indicator measures the percentage of vaccinated health service staff (**including residential aged care services staff and community health staff**) who are permanently, temporarily or casually (bank staff) employed by the nominated hospital/health service and worked one or more shifts during the influenza vaccination campaign.

Data collection dates

The period during which the vaccination rate will be calculated is **1 April 2020 to 14 August 2020**.

The vaccine for the HCW influenza immunisation is expected to be available from mid-April 2020.

Health services are required to submit their data to the VICNISS Coordinating Centre by **Friday 28 August 2020**.

Submit your data through the VICNISS web form. The web form will be available for uploading data on or before 14 August 2020, at <https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination/>

Health services must be registered as a VICNISS web form user to be able to submit the influenza data. To register as a user, please contact the VICNISS Coordinating Centre on (03) 9342 9333.

Further information on vaccination protocols, the methodology and how percentage rates are calculated for this performance indicator is available:

- at <https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination/>
- by contacting the VICNISS Coordinating Centre on 9342 9333 or email: vicnissqueries@mh.org.au.

If you require further immunisation information, please contact the Immunisation Section on 1300 882 008 or email immunisation@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Further information

Other resources and guidelines for HCW immunisation:

- The online influenza chapter of The Australian Immunisation Handbook
<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/influenza-flu>
- Order online HCW immunisation record cards
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisation-resources-order-form>
- Immunisations for healthcare workers seventh edition (updated August 2014)
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/adults/vaccination-workplace/vaccination-healthcare-workers>
- The World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory in Melbourne
www.influenzacentre.org/