

Dear Doctor

### **National Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation Program 2009**

The annual National Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation Program will commence on 2 March 2009.

Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines will be provided free of charge to all:

- persons aged 65 years and older;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15-49 years who fit the criteria for high risk groups as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council in the current edition of *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

It is important to note that **pneumococcal vaccine is NOT recommended annually**. The current recommendation is for adults 65 years or over to receive a dose of Pneumovax, with a single revaccination five years later, due to the increased risk of local reactions. Please refer to the current edition of *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* for guidance on revaccination for adults who have received the vaccine prior to turning 65 years of age.

Vaccines will be delivered to you directly from the NSW Vaccine Centre. Influenza vaccine will also be delivered directly to all NSW Nursing Homes to assist you in vaccinating these patients. Orders for influenza vaccines may be placed as often as necessary but please forward these orders with your routine vaccine order where possible. An Order Form is attached for your information. Orders for Pneumovax should be made on the standard vaccine Order Form.

The administration of influenza vaccine to individuals at risk of complications of infection is the single most important measure in preventing or attenuating influenza infection and preventing mortality. I strongly encourage you to offer influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations to all eligible patients.

Further information on the National Pneumococcal Vaccination Program for Older Australians is available from the Immunisation Infoline on 1800 671 811 or the Immunise Australia Program website at:

<http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/older>

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact your local Public Health Unit. Contact numbers may be found at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/Infectious/phus.asp> or under "Health" in the White Pages.

Yours sincerely



Darryl O'Donnell  
**A/Associate Director**  
**AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch**

19 December 2008

**Fax to 1800 041 528**

Enquiries regarding orders/dispatch: **1300 656 132**

## Influenza Vaccine Order Form 2009

PROVIDER DETAILS		
Date:	Number of GPs in practice (F/T or P/T):	<b>Vaccine Account <u>Number</u></b>
Practice Name:		Opening Hours (for delivery):
Delivery Address:		
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? How often is the temperature recorded? _____	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Have vaccine fridge temperatures been between +2 to +8°C since the last vaccine order? (Excludes excursions up to +12°C for less than 15 minutes when opening fridge)	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
In order to receive free Australian Government vaccines, I agree that this practice will comply with cold chain recommendations in the <i>National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5</i> .		
GP/Practice Manager Name:	Signature:	

**Free INFLUENZA Vaccine for the following groups ONLY:**

- all persons aged 65 years and over;
- all Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older; and
- all Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 – 49 years who fit the criteria for high risk groups as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council in the current edition of *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

VACCINE	No. to be supplied
<b>Influenza</b>	