## Checklist timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By mid-March</td>
<td>Discard previous year flu vaccine stock (note some flu vaccines expire before March)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify at-risk and eligible patients for NIP (6 months to &lt;5 years) vaccination programs – <a href="#">calculate how many vaccines are required for each cohort for your first order</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check your fridge capacity to store the amount of vaccines you will need</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place your first funded <a href="#">vaccine order</a> (order enough for the first 4 weeks provided you have adequate fridge storage space)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact wholesalers to order private market vaccine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Send communications to all patients reminding them of the importance of flu vaccination and commencement of the program on 1 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-April</td>
<td>Check that all staff are trained in vaccine <a href="#">cold chain management</a> (including receipt of vaccine deliveries). The <a href="#">NSW Health Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Management</a> online training module should be used to facilitate staff education and equip staff to effectively manage the cold chain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First funded vaccine order deliveries received</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Send reminder messages to pre-identified patients advising of your practice flu vaccination arrangements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Display flu campaign posters in your clinic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late April onwards</td>
<td>Commence flu vaccination clinics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report all vaccinations to the <a href="#">Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report adverse events following immunisation to your local public health unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-May</td>
<td>Review patient vaccine uptake – send reminders to patients who have not attended for vaccination and reorder according to stock on hand and residual demand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

Checklist timeline ................................................................. 1
Contents ........................................................................... 2
Introduction ....................................................................... 3
2020 NIP Flu vaccines .......................................................... 3
Quadrivalent (QIV) Influenza Vaccines ................................. 4
Get prepared for 2020: .......................................................... 4
  2020 Influenza Vaccination Campaign .................................. 4
  Government funded vaccine ordering ................................... 4
  Online ordering system messaging ........................................ 5
  Vaccine delivery ................................................................... 5
Which patients should you target for funded vaccines? .......... 7
  Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ......................... 7
  Children 6 months to less than 5 years ................................ 7
  Pregnant women .................................................................. 8
  Medically at-risk patients ..................................................... 8
  People ≥65 years of age ........................................................ 8
  Health care workers and students ........................................ 9
  Other patients ..................................................................... 9
Optimum time for vaccination .............................................. 9
Reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register ............... 10
  How to report influenza vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register .................................................................................. 10
Flu vaccine effectiveness ..................................................... 11
Flu vaccine safety ................................................................... 11
Reporting adverse events following immunisation ................ 12
Vaccine storage and cold chain management ......................... 12
Where you can find more information .................................... 12
Appendix 1: Funded vaccine ordering worksheet – example ........ 13
Appendix 2: Flu vaccination decision aid – adults ...................... 14
Appendix 3: 2020 flu vaccines poster (with images) .................... 15
# Introduction

There has been exceptionally high demand for the flu vaccine across Australia in the last few years with over 2.5 million doses of National Immunisation Program (NIP) flu vaccine distributed in 2019 in NSW alone. NSW Health has developed this toolkit to assist providers with managing roll-out and implementation of their flu vaccination program in 2020.

Flu vaccines are also available on the private market. If you are a pharmacy in NSW, flu vaccines must be ordered through your wholesaler. Patients who are eligible to receive flu vaccine through the NIP should be encouraged to see their doctor.

## 2020 NIP Flu vaccines

The Australian Government, through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides a free seasonal influenza vaccine to those most at risk of complications from influenza. The following table provides information on the age-appropriate NIP vaccines for 2020:

### 2020 INFLUENZA VACCINES AVAILABLE UNDER THE NIP, BY AGE

Before administering an influenza vaccine, CHECK you have the correct vaccine for the person’s age. Ages are identified on the syringe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quadrivalent (QIV) vaccines</th>
<th>FluQuadri 0.50 mL (Sanofi)</th>
<th>Vaxigrip Tetra® 0.50 mL (Sanofi)</th>
<th>Fluarix Tetra 0.50 mL (GSK)</th>
<th>Afluria Quad 0.50 mL (Seqirus)</th>
<th>Fluad® Quad 0.50 mL (Seqirus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 to 35 months (&lt;3 years)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥3 to &lt;5 years</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥5 to 65 years</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65 years</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
<td>✓¹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ticks indicate age at which a vaccine is registered and available. Shaded boxes represent funding under the NIP.

1. Funding only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and people who have certain medical conditions.
2. Adjuvant QIV preferred over standard QIVs.

### Figure 1: 2020 Influenza vaccines available under the NIP by age

Before administering an influenza vaccine, CHECK you have the correct vaccine for the person’s age. Ages are identified on the syringe.

Ticks indicate age at which a vaccine is registered and available. Shaded boxes represent funding under the NIP.

- **The QIV Fluad® Quad (Seqirus) contains an adjuvant and is recommended for people ≥65 years of age over other available QIVs.**
- **Vaxigrip Tetra® can be used for people from 6 months of age but should be prioritised for the universal 6 month to 5 year program.**
- **FluQuadri and Fluarix Tetra can be given from 6 months of age and should be prioritised for NIP eligible medically at risk patients.**

Influenza vaccines are also available on the private market. In 2020 Fluad Quad vaccine is the only influenza vaccine available for people aged 65 and over and is not available for private purchase.
Quadrivalent (QIV) Influenza Vaccines

There are two main types of influenza that cause disease in humans: A and B. Currently there are two influenza A subtypes and two influenza B lineages that are circulating globally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influenza A – two subtypes</th>
<th>Influenza B – two lineages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/H1N1pdm09</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/H3N2</td>
<td>Yamagata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2020 there are no Trivalent influenza vaccines (TIV) on the market in Australia.

Quadrivalent vaccines (QIV) contain viruses for both influenza A subtypes and both influenza B lineages.

The composition of flu vaccines for the southern hemisphere is reviewed in September each year by the World Health Organization, and then subsequently determined by the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee (AIVC).

The committee recommended that the following viruses be used for influenza vaccines in the 2020 southern hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccines:

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

The AIVC recommendation for the composition of influenza vaccines for Australia in 2020 introduces a new A (H1N1) like virus strain, a new A (H3N2) like virus strain and new strain for the B Victoria lineage when compared to the composition of the trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines for Australia in 2019.

Get prepared for 2020:

2020 Influenza Vaccination Campaign

Government programs promoting the 2020 Influenza Vaccination Program will commence on 1 May 2020 to ensure all providers have vaccine stocks. Providers may schedule clinics once supplies are received, however please note that all preparations may not be delivered at the same time. Once adult preparations are received, providers should prioritise vaccinating pregnant women.

For pharmacies and practices that will be ordering flu vaccines through their wholesaler, it is recommended that flu vaccines be administered from mid-April/May onwards in accordance with the advice provided in the “Timing of vaccination” section.

Government Funded Vaccine ordering

Providers can place orders in the vaccine online ordering system from 9 March 2020 onwards at https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/ (deliveries will commence around mid-April).

If you do not have an online account to order your vaccines, contact your public health unit on 1300 066 055 to apply for a vaccine account.

The large volume of flu orders at the beginning of the season means that it takes around four weeks for the state vaccine centre to send out all first flu orders from the system. Flu orders will be open from 9 March 2020 but vaccines will not be delivered until around mid-April. Please refer to the Appendix 1 worksheet example to assist you with calculating your vaccine usage during the flu vaccination program. The Checklist timeline at the front of this Toolkit will assist you to prepare for your flu vaccination program.
You should consider the following issues when placing your first flu order such as:

1. **Calculate how many vaccinations your service can provide each day and estimate how many vaccines are needed to maintain stock levels until the next delivery in four weeks’ time.**
   
   For example, if you have one nurse immuniser who can vaccinate on average 50 patients/day and your practice operates 7 days/week, you will need to order 350 vaccines/week for four weeks in your initial order (i.e. 1,400 vaccines plus a buffer of several days).

2. **Check your vaccine fridge storage space**
   
   You may need to source an additional purpose built vaccine specific fridge for additional storage space to maintain adequate vaccine stock during the flu program. Check with the manufacturer about your fridge’s vaccine storage capacity.

3. **Review your patient age cohort.**
   
   For example, how many patients does your practice have that are aged over 65, children aged 6 months to less than 5 years, Aboriginal people aged 6 months and over, pregnant, and medically at risk individuals? Order vaccines appropriate to your patient age cohorts.

4. **Calculate how much vaccine you need for your remaining patient cohorts before placing your next order.** A worksheet is provided in the Appendix 1 worksheet example to assist with calculating your vaccine usage.

When placing subsequent orders, remember to consider how many vaccines your practice can feasibly administer each week and order regularly thereafter, based on how many patients you estimate still need to be vaccinated. Remember that children aged under 9 years of age require 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart in their first year of flu vaccination.

Providers will be asked to report on how many vaccines they have in stock when placing all flu vaccine orders. The number of orders per month for flu vaccine is not restricted.

**Online ordering system messaging**

Messages regarding changes to flu vaccine stock availability and any ordering restrictions will be regularly posted on the online vaccine ordering system. It is important to regularly check for new messages during the flu vaccination program.

**Vaccine delivery**

**NIP Program**

Deliveries of funded vaccine will commence around mid-April 2020, depending on availability of vaccines from the Australian Government. Advice on delivery dates for private market flu vaccines should be sought from wholesalers.

Providers must clearly label their flu vaccine stock to minimise the risk of inappropriate administration to an incorrect age-group. To support providers, vaccine basket stickers will be sent with flu vaccine deliveries (Figure 2).

**Pharmacies**

Please check with your regular wholesaler on expected delivery dates.
Figure 2: 2020 influenza vaccine basket stickers

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **6 months – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **Privately Funded Influenza Vaccines**

- **Privately Funded Influenza Vaccines**

- **Privately Funded Influenza Vaccines**

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **5 – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **5 – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **5 – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **5 – 64 years**
    - Afluria Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **65 years and over**
    - Fluad Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **65 years and over**
    - Fluad Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **65 years and over**
    - Fluad Quad

- **2020 INFLUENZA VACCINE**
  - **65 years and over**
    - Fluad Quad
Which patients should you target for funded vaccines?

Identify your at-risk and eligible patients and remind them about the importance of their annual flu vaccination. In addition to your existing practice software recall/reminder process, consider using your practice webpage, social media (Facebook/Twitter) and your practice noticeboards to promote your flu vaccination program.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

From 2020 flu vaccine is funded under the NIP for ALL Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from 6 months of age and over.

Aboriginal children under 9 years of age should have two doses at least 4 weeks apart in the first year they are vaccinated. Both doses are funded.

Pneumovax 23 (50 years and over) and Zostavax (70-79 years of age) vaccines should also be offered to eligible Aboriginal people at the time of their flu vaccination if they have not previously had these vaccines.

Children 6 months to less than 5 years

In 2020 influenza vaccine is funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for ALL children in this age group. Two doses are recommended in the first year of vaccination (at least 4 weeks apart). Both doses are funded.

Childhood vaccines: In 2020, three childhood vaccines will be available to order:

- Vaxigrip Tetra (for universal childhood program 6 months to less than 5 years)
- FluQuadri (for medically at risk children)
- Fluarix Tetra (for medically at risk children)

Even healthy children are vulnerable to catching the flu. In 2019, a large number of children who were hospitalised due to the flu, and those who died from flu, had not been offered a flu vaccine by their doctor or specialist. Since 2018, NSW Health provided free flu vaccine for all children aged 6 months to less than 5 years with only one-third of children recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register as vaccinated in 2019. It is important to increase this uptake further in 2020 to protect all young children.

Providers should consider active initiatives to improve vaccine uptake in their child cohort. Use reminder/recall systems to send SMS messages or emails to parents of children in your practice advising them of the opportunity to have their child vaccinated.

NSW Health has additional resources and information available such as an evidence review, posters and patient brochures, available at:


Pregnant women

Influenza vaccination during pregnancy has been shown to be safe and effective. Vaccination during pregnancy protects pregnant women from influenza and its complications in pregnancy, and is the best way to protect newborns against influenza during the critical early months of life. The timing of vaccination depends on the time of the year, vaccine availability and the anticipated duration of immunity. Influenza vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy and can be given at the same time as pertussis vaccination (ideally at 28 weeks) but may be given earlier, and should not be delayed if the winter influenza season has begun or is imminent. Ensure that the flu vaccine is recorded on the woman’s antenatal record card and Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Refer to the Appendix 1 worksheet example to assist with ordering vaccines for this patient cohort.


Medically at-risk patients

Flu vaccine is funded under the NIP for children and adults with medical risk factors such as severe asthma, lung or heart disease, low immunity or diabetes. Refer to The Australian Immunisation Handbook for more information at: https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/influenza-flu

Children under 9 years of age should have two doses at least 4 weeks apart in the first year they are vaccinated. Refer to the Appendix 1 worksheet example to assist with vaccine ordering for this cohort.

People ≥65 years of age

In 2020 Fluad Quad® an adjuvanted quadrivalent vaccine will be the only vaccine provided under the NIP for people ≥ 65 years of age (note that after shaking, the normal appearance of Fluad Quad® is a milky-white suspension).

Fluad Quad® has been specifically designed to create a greater immune response amongst the elderly, who are known to have a weaker response to immunisation.

All available QIVs can also be used amongst people aged 65 years and over through the NIP. However, the specially-formulated QIV is recommended in preference to other QIVs for this age group where available.

Did you know?

Fluad Quad should be given in preference to other available QIVs as it has been specifically designed to create a greater immune response amongst the elderly, who are known to have a weaker response to immunisation.

Did you know?

Offering vaccine, or recommending vaccination, by an antenatal care provider is one of the strongest predictors of vaccine uptake by pregnant women and should be a routine part of antenatal care.

The risk of mild to moderate injection site reactions may be greater for those aged 65 years and over receiving Fluad Quad. Fluad Quad® is not registered for use in people younger than 65 years - its effectiveness and safety has not been assessed in younger populations.

Pneumovax 23 (65 years and over) and Zostavax (70-79 years of age) vaccines should also be offered to eligible people at the time of their flu vaccination.
**Health care workers and students**

NSW Health policy directive [PD2018_009 Occupational Assessment Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases](#) requires health care workers and students in Category A high risk positions to receive the influenza vaccine annually by 1 June. NSW Health employees will be offered vaccine in their workplace, however if they choose to be vaccinated by their GP they will need to purchase private vaccine unless they are eligible for NIP vaccine. For more information refer to section 4 Annual Influenza Vaccination Program.

**Other patients**

All patients aged ≥5 years of age who are not eligible for funded flu vaccine should be advised that they can purchase private market flu vaccine. These vaccines are available from GPs and [authorised pharmacists](#) (for people aged 10 years and over).

**Optimum time for vaccination**

Annual vaccination before the onset of each influenza season is recommended. The period of influenza circulation is typically June to September in NSW.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advises that optimal protection occurs within the first three to four months following vaccination. Therefore vaccination from mid-April/May onwards is likely to result in peak immunity during the flu season.

It is never too late to vaccinate since influenza can circulate all year round. Vaccination should continue to be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating and a valid vaccine (before expiration date) is available.

Other considerations for vaccine timing:

- Pregnant women should be vaccinated at the earliest opportunity during pregnancy. In accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook, the 2020 influenza vaccine can be given to pregnant women if the 2019 vaccine was given earlier in the pregnancy. Women under the care of a private obstetrician should have their flu vaccination status assessed as they may not have received it from their obstetrician.
- People travelling to a country where flu is circulating can be vaccinated two weeks before travel if they haven't already received the 2020 vaccine and it is in your fridge.
- Young children aged 6 months to under nine years require two doses in their first year of vaccination (given at least four weeks apart). Both of these doses are funded, so ideally vaccinate children as soon as stock becomes available. Should a child not receive two doses in their first year, they only require one dose the following year.
Reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register

Providers should report all vaccinations (including flu vaccines) to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) which accepts data for people of all ages. This will ensure complete vaccination records for your patients including the availability of this information in the My Health Record.

How to report influenza vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register

There are three ways to record information on the AIR:

1. Use your practice management software (PMS). The details you enter will be able to be transferred from your PMS to the AIR.
   - Make sure you are using the latest version of your PMS so you have up to date vaccine codes (contact your software vendor for further information).
   - Ensure you select the correct vaccine that has been given to the patient.

2. Use the AIR site. You can record immunisation details using the Identify Individual and Record Encounter functions.

3. Complete the Australian Immunisation Register – immunisation encounter form.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has published five AIR eLearning education modules to help vaccination providers understand how to access and use AIR site and record vaccination episodes. The five modules provide detailed steps and screen shots to help with:

- Registering and requesting access to the AIR site
- Accessing the AIR site for the first time
- Submitting information to the AIR
- Recording overseas immunisations
- Recording immunisation medical exemptions

The modules can be viewed at www.humanservices.gov.au/hpeducation

Additional information on the AIR is available at:

To register as a vaccination provider with the AIR: Complete the application form at:
https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals/forms/im004 and forward it via email for the attention of the Manager of Immunisation at MOH-vaccreports@health.nsw.gov.au

Practice software: It is recommended that you check if your practice software needs to be updated to enable AIR reporting.

Pharmacist vaccinators are required to follow the steps in the link below to register as a vaccination provider with the AIR:

1. Complete the form IM004 Australian Immunisation Register Application to Register as a Vaccination Provider, to register the pharmacy.
2. Complete the NSW Pharmacist application to register as a vaccination provider with the Australian Immunisation Register. Each pharmacist that will be administering vaccinations at the pharmacy must complete this form.
3. Submit the forms to MOH-vaccreports@health.nsw.gov.au for processing. NSW Health will submit the approved applications to the Department of Human Services

Further information is available at the following:
Flu vaccine effectiveness

Vaccine effectiveness refers to improving a range of clinical outcomes such as disease incidence, hospitalisation or attendance at a GP practice.

The effectiveness of the influenza vaccine varies from season to season for a variety of reasons, mainly related to the match with the circulating influenza viruses that are infecting people.

In general, flu vaccine effectiveness has been found to vary between 40-60%. This means that on average, a vaccinated person is 40-60% less likely to experience a negative health outcome for example, developing the flu and attending a GP practice or being hospitalised than an unvaccinated person. The effectiveness of the vaccine may depend on other factors such as the age group affected and the health outcome being measured (e.g. hospitalisation or attendance at a GP).

Vaccine effectiveness is generally lower in older people than in younger adults and children.

In previous years, the flu vaccine in Australia has been estimated to be 68% effective in preventing presentation at the GP or outpatient department and also 58% effective in preventing hospitalisation. A full report is available at: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/CA086525758664B4CA25836200807AF9/$File/2018-Season-Summary.pdf

A useful Australian Government resource Questions About Vaccination is available that may help you answer patient questions and concerns about vaccination, particularly if patients have concerns that the flu vaccine gives them the flu. It is available at: https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/questions-about-vaccination

Flu vaccine safety

There is extensive surveillance that demonstrates that the influenza vaccines now used in Australia have an excellent safety profile, including AusVaxSafety data.


Egg allergy: is not a contraindication to influenza vaccine. People with an egg allergy, including anaphylaxis, can be safely vaccinated with influenza vaccines. People with a history of anaphylaxis to egg should:

• receive their influenza vaccine in a medical facility with staff experienced in recognising and treating anaphylaxis
• remain under supervision in the clinic for at least 30 minutes after vaccination
• receive a full age-appropriate vaccine dose; do not split the dose into multiple injections (for example, a test and then the rest of the dose).

For further information please refer to the The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA), Vaccination of the Egg-allergic Individual Guidelines available at: https://www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/vaccination-of-the-egg-allergic-individual

For children with severe egg allergy, vaccination under medical supervision can also be arranged at the NSW Immunisation Specialist Service by calling 1800 679 477.

Latex allergy: All vaccines supplied under the NIP in 2020 are latex free.

A flu vaccination decision aid is available at Appendix 2 to assist you with conducting pre-vaccination assessment with your patients.
**Reporting adverse events following immunisation**

To assist you to identify which patients experience an adverse event following immunisation, SmartVax is a program that extracts data from your practice software and sends SMS messages to your patients following vaccination. More information is available at: [http://www.smartvax.com.au/about-smartvax.html](http://www.smartvax.com.au/about-smartvax.html)

Adverse events following immunisation should be reported to your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**. Information is also available on the NSW Health website at: [https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/aefi.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/aefi.aspx)

NSW Health sends daily reports to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of all adverse event reports received.

Data on the safety of influenza vaccines is continuously monitored by the TGA and AusVaxSafety. Weekly updates are available on the AusVaxSafety website at: [www.ausvaxsafety.org.au](http://www.ausvaxsafety.org.au)

**Vaccine storage and cold chain management**

Vaccines must be stored within the recommended temperature range of +2°C to +8°C at all times. Correct storage and handling of vaccines is vital to maintaining vaccine potency and ensuring vaccines are safe and effective for patient administration.

The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines: STRIVE for 5 (current edition) provides information and advice for vaccine storage management.

In the event that vaccine storage temperatures have been outside of the recommended range of +2°C to +8°C, you should follow your cold chain breach protocol. All cold chain breaches must be reported to your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**. Your public health unit will provide advice regarding vaccine disposal and cold chain management.

For further information and resources on managing vaccine storage and cold chain breaches, including the NSW Health Cold Chain Toolkit and a cold chain training module for all providers, visit the NSW Health website: [https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/cold-chain-management.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/cold-chain-management.aspx)

**Where you can find more information**

- **Commonwealth website**

- **NCIRS website**

- **NSW Immunisation Specialist Service (NSWISS) website**

- **ATAGI statement 2020**

- **NSW Health flu page**

Public Health Unit contact number **1300 066 055** (this will connect you to the PHU in the area you are calling from).
Appendix 1: Funded vaccine ordering worksheet – example

A template worksheet in an Excel spreadsheet is provided with formulas to help calculate your usage and is available at https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx

To calculate the number of vaccines you should order:

1. Enter the total number of patients in each cohort seen by your practice (Column C)
2. Enter the number of patients your clinic is able to vaccinate in a week (Column D row 18)
   The spreadsheet will then calculate for you
3. The number of vaccines needed to vaccinate the whole cohort (column E)
4. The number of vaccines you should order in your first (or preseason) order (column F)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age cohort</th>
<th>Vaccine(s)</th>
<th>Number in each cohort</th>
<th>Number to vaccinate each week</th>
<th>Total number of doses needed to vaccinate each cohort</th>
<th>First vaccine order – order 4 weeks’ worth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All children 6 months to less than 5 years*</td>
<td>Vaxigrip Tetra</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All medically at risk and Aboriginal people 6 months to &lt;5 years</td>
<td>Fluarix Tetra or FluQuadri</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>(cohort + 30% for children requiring 2 doses)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All medically at risk and Aboriginal people 5 years to 64 years</td>
<td>Fluarix Tetra or FluQuadri or Afluria</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All people ≥65 years</td>
<td>Fluad</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All pregnant women</td>
<td>Fluarix Tetra or FluQuadri or Afluria</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number to be vaccinated</td>
<td></td>
<td>270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Remember children under 9 years of age require two doses in their first year of receiving the flu vaccine (at least 4 weeks apart)
Appendix 2: Flu vaccination decision aid – adults

**INFLUENZA VACCINATION DECISION AID**

1. **Have you had a flu vaccination since March 2020?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

2. **Have you had anaphylaxis after a flu vaccination or to any component of the vaccine?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

3. **Do you currently have a fever ≥38.5°C?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

4. **Are you allergic to eggs?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

5. **Are you immuno-compromised?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

6. **Do you have a past history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

7. **Have you ever had a severe reaction after any vaccination?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

8. **Are you ≥65 years of age?**
   - **NO**
   - **YES**

9. **This patient should not be vaccinated again. Only 1 influenza vaccine is required each year (unless it is a child < 9 years of age and it is the first year they are being vaccinated).**

10. **This patient should not receive the influenza vaccine.**

11. **You should delay administering the flu vaccine until the person no longer has a fever.**

12. **This patient can be vaccinated however dependent on allergy may need to be vaccinated in an alternate setting – see recommendations in the Immunisation Handbook or contact NSWISS 1800 679 477.**

13. **Those who have had a haematopoietic stem cell transplant or solid organ transplant require 2 doses in their first year of vaccination. Refer to the Immunisation Handbook or seek advice from the patient’s specialist or NSWISS 1800 679 477.**

14. **The patient may be able to receive the flu vaccine however expert advice will need to be sought from the treating specialist or an immunisation expert such as NSWISS 1800 679 477.**

15. **The patient may be able to receive the flu vaccine however you will need to consider the reaction, possible cause and sequela. Expert advice is available from NSWISS 1800 679 477.**

16. **Patients aged ≥ 65 should receive Fluad which is specifically for this age group.**
Appendix 3:  
2020 flu vaccines poster (with images)

2020 influenza vaccine presentations and eligibility

6 MONTHS TO LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF AGE

**Vaxigrip Tetra**
Registered for use in people aged 6 months and over:
- Prioritise for universal 6 months to <5 years influenza vaccination program
- Give two doses one month apart if first year of receiving flu vaccine
- Available in 10 packs
- Children should receive a full dose (i.e. not a half dose)
- Does NOT contain latex

Pack dimensions:
Ten packs: 9.7 cm (L) x 1.2 cm (W) x 4.5 cm (H)

5 TO 64 YEARS

**Afluria Quad**
Registered for use in people aged 5 years and over and should be prioritised for use in:
- People 5 to 64 years of age with medical risk factors predisposing to severe influenza
- All Aboriginal persons 5 to 64 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Available in 10 packs
- Give two doses one month apart for children aged 5 to less than 9 years if first year of receiving flu vaccine.
- Do not use for children less than 5 years of age
- Does NOT contain latex

Pack dimensions:
Ten packs: 13.1 cm (L) x 2.5 cm (W) x 4 cm (H)

65 YEARS AND OVER (only)

**Flud Quad**
- New adjuvanted quadrivalent vaccine
- All persons aged 65 years and over
- Milky-white suspension
- Available in 10 packs
- Does NOT contain latex in the presentation available in Australia
- Do not use in pregnant women or children

Pack dimensions:
Ten packs: 13 cm (L) x 15.4 cm (W) x 2.3 cm (H)

Please refer to the NSW Health 2020 Influenza Toolkit for useful information to support the implementation of your 2020 influenza vaccination program. Access the toolkit at health.nsw.gov.au/flu-provider-toolkit.pdf

For more information visit health.nsw.gov.au/flu