



Health

Hunter New England
Local Health District

Influenza vaccines 2021 in General Practice

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Influenza 2021 NSW Health



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health.nsw.gov.au

Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit

Updated March 2021

Posters



DID YOU KNOW?
The flu vaccine
is **FREE** for kids
from 6 months
to **UNDER 5** years

Protect your kids from the flu

Talk to your GP or immunisation provider today. Children require
2 doses at least 4 weeks apart in the first year of flu vaccination.

Visit health.nsw.gov.au/kidsflushot

July 2018 © NSW Health, SHPN (HP NSW) 180513.



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Influenza vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic

FAQs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Why?

Why should I get the flu jab?

Influenza is often called the 'flu'. It can be a serious disease and can cause death. Our mob is at a high risk of getting very sick with flu. Complications are most common among Elders, bubs and people with other health problems (lung or heart problems, or diabetes). The flu jab helps you stay healthy and strong and can protect you and your mob from the flu. If you are pregnant, the flu jab will also protect your baby against the flu.

Vaccines for COVID-19 are also now available and are being rolled out in a phased manner. When your turn comes, be sure to get the COVID-19 vaccine you are offered. The COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia are safe and protect you from getting very sick from the COVID disease.

It's important you get your flu shot and COVID shot to keep you and others in the community healthy.

Where?

Where can I get the flu jab?

You can get the flu jab at your doctor, Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) or local pharmacy.

If you go to your doctor or AMS, also ask them about other vaccines that you may need to stay healthy this winter.

Can I?

Can I get the flu jab and the COVID jab at the same time?

There should be a 14-day gap between the flu jab and the COVID jab. You can get either of the jabs first, whichever is available.

Who?

Who should get the flu jab?
Is the jab free?

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people older than 6 months should get the flu jab.

The flu vaccine is **FREE** for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 6 months and older, so let your doctor know that you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

When?

When should I get the flu jab?

To protect our mob, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 6 months and older should get the flu jab every year in April or May (before the flu season starts, which is usually from June to September), but it's never too late to vaccinate even if after May.

Other?

What about other routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic?

It's very important that during this pandemic you continue to get your routine vaccinations, including keeping your bub's routine childhood immunisations up to date. Your clinic will have special processes in place to ensure safe vaccination. You can check on this when you make appointment to get your vaccine.

You can get your routine vaccinations at the same time you get your flu jab. Ask your local Aboriginal healthcare worker, doctor or nurse.

Building Capacity for
Indigenous Health
and Wellbeing

For more information about vaccination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people see www.ncirs.org.au/IFOM

Prepared by National Indigenous Immunisation Coordinator
Kathina Clark and the team at NCIRS.

March 2021

Quadrivalent (QIV) influenza vaccines



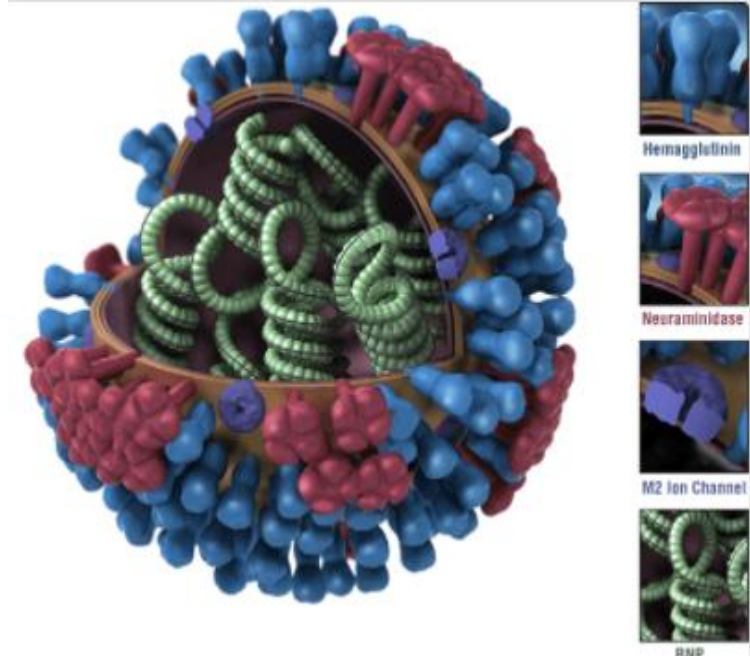
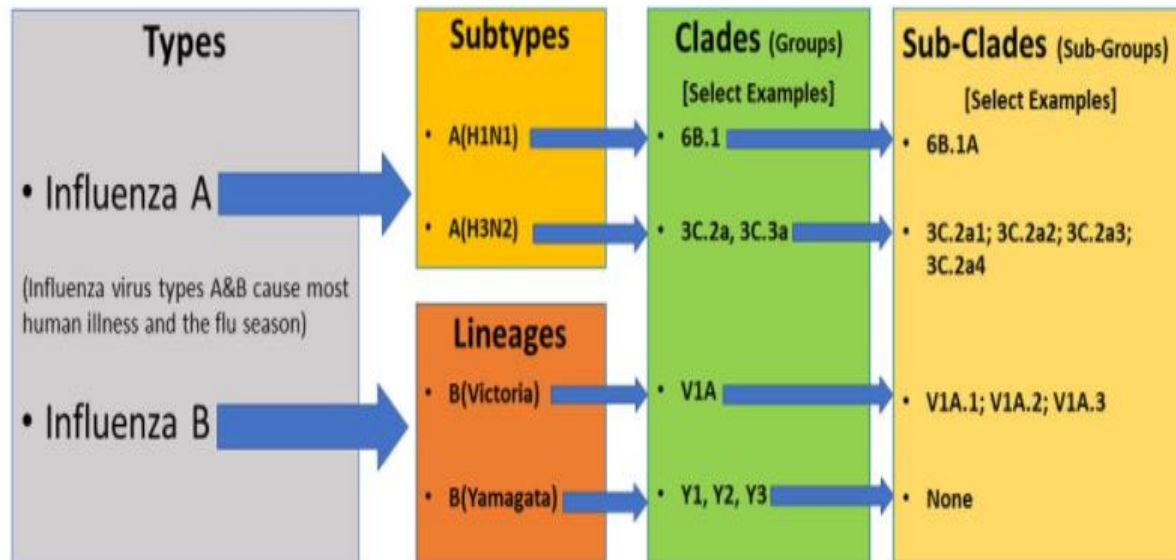
Influenza A – two subtypes

Influenza B – two lineages

A/H1N1pdm09
A/H3N2

Washington
Phuket

Human Seasonal Influenza Viruses



2021 Quadrivalent (QIV) influenza vaccines



Understanding the naming of flu viruses

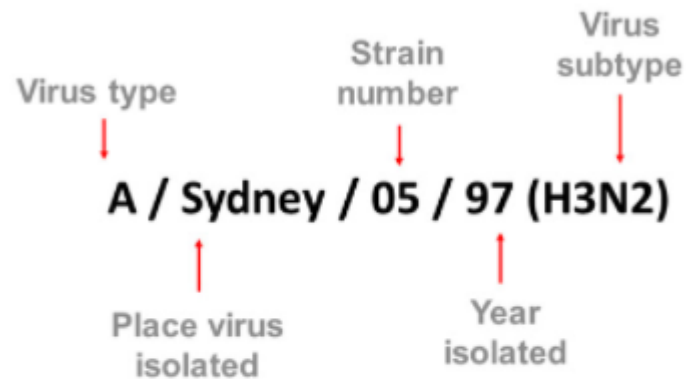


Figure 3 – This image shows how influenza viruses are named. The name starts with the virus type, followed by the place the virus was isolated, followed by the virus strain number, the year isolated, and finally, the virus subtype.

- a A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- a A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- a B/Washington/02/2019(B/Victoria lineage)-like virus
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata)-like virus.



2019–20 Season's Pediatric Flu Deaths Tie High Mark Set During 2017–18 Season

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August 21, 2020 – CDC today [reported](#) one new seasonal flu-related death in a child that occurred during the 2019-2020 season, bringing the total number of flu deaths in children reported to CDC for last season to 188. This matches the highest recorded number for pediatric flu deaths reported during a regular flu season, which occurred during the 2017-2018 flu season.

Among the 188 reported pediatric flu deaths:

- 43% (81) occurred in children younger than 5 years old
 - 12 occurred in children younger than 6 months and thus too young to get a flu vaccine
- 57% (107) deaths occurred in children 5-17 years old
- Of the 175 pediatric deaths among children with known information on medical conditions, 76 (43.4%) had a pre-existing medical condition.
- Nearly two-thirds of the deaths were attributed to influenza B infections.

[2019-20 Season's Pediatric Flu Deaths Tie High Mark Set During 2017-18 Season | CDC](#)



National flu death toll tops 250

Australia is battling through one of its deadliest flu seasons on record.



Most recently, [a 13-year-old Victorian girl died](#) at home only three days after falling ill with flu-like symptoms, while last week a [two-year-old boy in Western Australia lost his life](#) after his condition deteriorated rapidly.

Relatives in shock after 13-year-old schoolgirl dies from the flu



Family and friends are in shock after Crystal-Lee Wightley, a 13-year-old schoolgirl in Victoria, died from the flu last week.



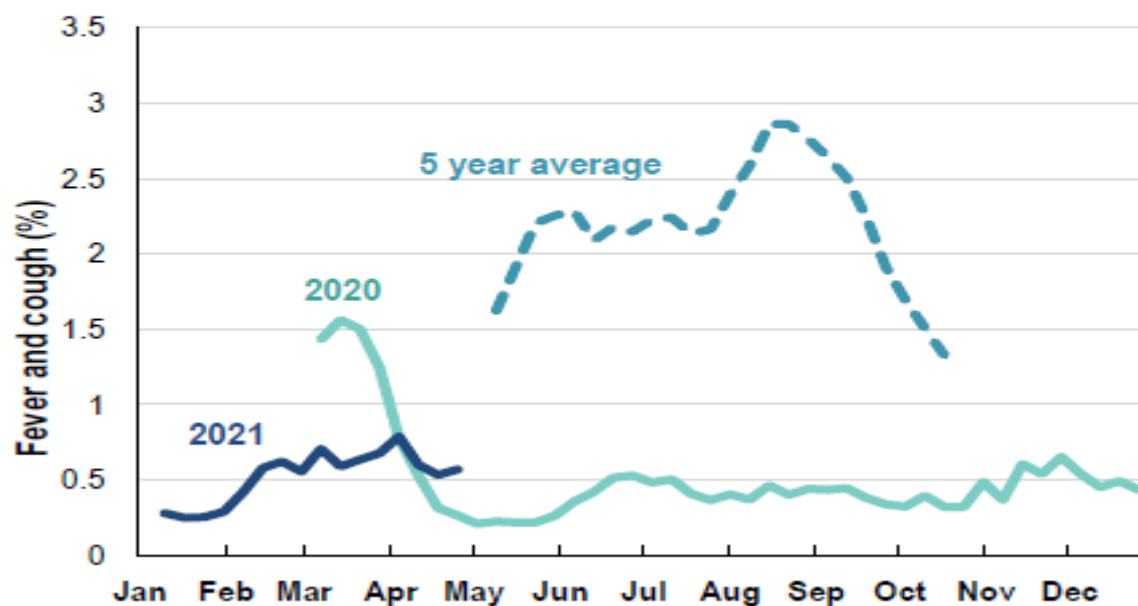
Crystal-Lee, who was a fit and healthy teen and dreamt of playing AFLW, was remembered as “divine and full of sunshine”.



This week influenza-like illness activity is low 50,795 participants this week

Influenza-like illness activity:

Fever and cough: 0.6% this week (flu-like illness activity is low)



*5 year average is calculated using 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 data
* Data are age standardised in this chart

Eligibility for free influenza vaccine



- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- all children aged 6 months to less than 5 years of age (including Aboriginal and medically at risk)
- all individuals aged 5 years and over with medical risk conditions, namely:
 - cardiac disease, including cyanotic congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure
 - chronic respiratory conditions, including suppurative lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and severe asthma
 - other chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up or hospitalisation in the previous year, including diabetes mellitus, chronic metabolic diseases, chronic renal failure, and haemoglobinopathies
 - chronic neurological conditions that impact on respiratory function, including multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and seizure disorders
 - impaired immunity, including HIV, malignancy and chronic steroid use
 - children aged 6 months to 10 years on long term aspirin therapy
- pregnant women (influenza vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy)
- people aged 65 years and over (vaccine that is specifically designed to produce a higher immune response is available for this group).



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Table 1. Seasonal influenza vaccines registered and available for use in Australia in 2021, by age

Vaccine Registered age group	Vaxigrip Tetra 0.5 mL (Sanofi)	Fluarix Tetra 0.5 mL (GSK)	FluQuadri 0.5 mL (Sanofi)	Influvac Tetra 0.50 mL (Mylan)	Afluria Quad 0.5 mL (Seqirus)	Flucelvax Quad 0.5 mL (Seqirus)	Fluad Quad 0.5 mL (Seqirus)
6 to 35 months (<3 years)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
≥ 3 to <5 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
≥ 5 to <9 years	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓*	X	X
≥ 9 to <65 years	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓*	✓	X
≥ 65 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ticks indicate age at which a vaccine is registered and available. Shaded boxes indicate the vaccine is funded under the NIP for eligible people.

* NIP funding only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and people who have certain medical conditions.

NSW Health 2021 NIP influenza vaccines



Figure 1. 2021 Influenza vaccines available under the NIP by age

2021 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.

	Quadrivalent (QIV) vaccines			
Registered age group	Vaxigrip Tetra® 0.50 mL (Sanofi)	Fluarix® Tetra 0.50 mL (GSK)	Afluria® Quad 0.50 mL (Seqirus)	Flud® Quad 0.50 mL (Seqirus)
<6 months	×	×	×	×
6 months to <5 years	✓	✓	×	×
5-64 years	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	×
65 years and over	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²

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.

Timing with Covid Vaccines




There are no safety or immunogenicity data on co-administration of influenza vaccine and any COVID-19 vaccines.

- Giving an influenza vaccine on the same day as a COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended.
- The preferred minimum interval between influenza vaccine and a dose of COVID-19 vaccine is **14 days**.
- Influenza vaccine can be given before or after any dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, with a minimum interval of 14 days.
- – People in phase 1a for COVID-19 vaccination should receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to them, and then receive their influenza vaccine.
- – People in later phases for COVID-19 vaccination should receive their influenza

HNE PHU Immunisation Website





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NSW School Vaccination Program

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Immunisation

Immunisation for prevention and protection

Immunisation is one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health measures for the control of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Hunter New England Population Health provides support & information to providers and the general community about immunisation, excluding travel vaccinations, to ensure our population has the opportunity to receive all recommended vaccines.

Our latest Immunisation Education Livestream - Immunisation Update AIR, PRODA and HPOS, Monday 7 Dec 2020

