

2025 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program

Aged Care Facilities

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your facility

1. *All residents should receive the 2025 seasonal influenza vaccine and, as appropriate, pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar 13) and shingles vaccine (Shingrix).*
2. *Fluad® Quad is an enhanced quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV), registered for use in adults aged 65 years and over.*
3. **Place your vaccine pre-order on the [State Vaccine Centre Online Ordering System](#) from **9am Monday 17 February 2025**. Deliveries will begin late March 2025 when the influenza vaccine becomes available**

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended and funded for ALL residents

- Annual influenza vaccination is the single most effective way to protect residents against influenza.
- Vaccination is recommended and free for everyone aged 65 years and over and residents aged less than 65 years with medical conditions that increase their risk of severe influenza, to reduce the risk of influenza complications and to prevent influenza outbreaks in aged care facilities.
- Australian studies suggest that in 2024, vaccinated individuals were about 60% less likely to attend general practice or be hospitalised with influenza than unvaccinated people.
- More information about key at risk groups will be published in the ATAGI 2025 *Statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines* available from early March at <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-technical-advisory-group-on-immunisation-atagi>.

Vaccinating from mid-April provides protection before the peak season takes place

- In 2025, Fluad® Quad, an enhanced QIV, will be available for use in residents aged 65 years and over. For residents under 65 years, a regular quadrivalent vaccine can be ordered.
- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered with most other vaccines including dTpa, RSV, pneumococcal and COVID-19 vaccines. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for more information about co-administration.
- As per the Australian Immunisation Handbook, Fluad Quad and Shingrix administration should be separated by a few days.
- Take the opportunity to ensure residents are up to date with **shingles and pneumococcal vaccinations** as recommended in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- A pneumococcal [Clinical Decision Tree](#) for vaccination providers is available on the Australian Government website at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-pneumococcal-vaccination-schedule-from-1-july-2020-clinical-decision-tree-for-vaccination-providers>.

Staff influenza vaccination

- All providers of Australian Government subsidised residential care must fund an annual vaccination program that offers a free vaccine to staff and volunteers.
- Staff are strongly recommended to receive a seasonal influenza vaccine to protect themselves and residents that they care for against influenza.
- Government funded vaccines provided for residents must NOT be used to vaccinate staff or volunteers.

Ordering influenza vaccine and deliveries

- Pre-orders can be placed from **9am Monday 17 February 2025** on the NSW Vaccine Centre - Online Ordering System at <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>. **Faxed orders will not be accepted.**
- If your facility does not already have a vaccine account, please complete the online vaccine ordering account registration form at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/vaccine-ordering.aspx>.
- Please call the NSW Vaccine Centre on **1300 656 132** prior to submitting an online registration form to confirm if your facility has an existing vaccine account.
- Only the person assigned with the role of managing a Residential Facility is authorised under Section 10(4)(d) of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 to order influenza and pneumococcal vaccines.
- Vaccine deliveries will commence from late March 2025. **Please only schedule influenza vaccination clinics once vaccine supplies are received.**
- Subsequent orders can be made online once you have received your initial order, however subsequent orders will only be delivered once all first influenza vaccine orders have been distributed. Only order enough vaccines required for use in a maximum four-week period.

All vaccinations must be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

- Providers must apply for access to the AIR via Provider Digital Access (PRODA). Further information about PRODA is available at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/organisations/business/services/proda-provider-digital-access. Providers will also need to complete the *Australian Immunisation Register Application to Register as a Vaccination Provider*, an application form is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/application-air-provider.aspx.

Preparing for the 2025 winter flu season

- To prepare for your vaccination program including vaccine storage and cold chain requirements, read the **NSW Health 2025 Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit** at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-provider-toolkit.aspx>
- Resources on the NSW Health webpage will help you prepare for the upcoming flu season, and reduce the possibility of influenza transmission in your facility: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Influenza/Pages/resources-residential-care.aspx>
- The Commonwealth subsidises community pharmacists to deliver National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines in residential care facilities. For more information visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu-providers-residential-care-facilities.aspx>

Further Information

- NSW Health Influenza website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/flu> and vaccination page <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx>.
- Australian Government Department of Health: Responsibilities of residential aged care providers: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/residential-aged-care/responsibilities-of-residential-aged-care-providers.