




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

2024 WA Influenza Vaccination Program

Ms Jo-Anne Morgan, Immunisation Program Manager
Communicable Disease Control Directorate



Agenda

1. ATAGI Statement
2. Why do we have a program?
3. Health Professional role
4. News to share... 
5. Program eligibility – schedule
6. Authority to immunise
7. Education requirements to administer influenza vaccines
8. Dashboards
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ATAGI statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2024

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has developed advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of 2024 seasonal influenza vaccines.
- It includes information about:
 - the influenza vaccines available for use in Australia in 2024, by age
 - influenza virus strains included in the 2024 seasonal influenza vaccines
 - timing of vaccination
 - vaccination for pregnant women
 - eligibility for influenza vaccines funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)
 - medical conditions that are associated with an increased risk of influenza complications.

Overview of key points and updates for 2024

- Annual vaccination is the most practical way to prevent influenza and its complications. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 65 months.
- All vaccination must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). The best vaccine type for use in the NIP should specify details of the vaccine administered, such as timing under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or self-administered during pregnancy.
- Influenza vaccines can be co-administered (given on the same day) with any COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines.
- For adults aged 65 years, both the adjuvanted (Fluzel Quad) and high-dose (Fluzone High Dose Quadrant) influenza vaccines are preferentially recommended over standard (Fluzone) vaccine. There is no preference for use between either Fluzel Quad or Fluzone High Dose Quadrant regarding previous receipt for the age group.
- Fluzone Quadrant is registered for use in children from 6 months of age. The vaccine is approved for use in pregnant women, but should not be used in women who are pregnant, aged 70-89 years. There is no preference for use between Fluzone Quad and Fluzone High Dose Quadrant.
- If a person has a 2023 formulation of influenza vaccine (Fluzone 2023 or Fluzone 2024), they are not recommended to receive a 2024 formulation of influenza vaccine when it becomes available (likely from April 2024).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Australian Influenza Vaccine Consortium (AIVC) have recommended that the B/Thailand/5/2024 large component is no longer included in seasonal influenza vaccines as this lineage has not been seen by seasonal general influenza. The global expert committee (GEC) in Australia continue to include the B/Thailand/5/2024 component, and AIVC supports the use of these vaccines in 2024.

Table 1. Seasonal influenza vaccines registered and available for use in Australia in 2024, by age

Influenza age group	Fluzone High Dose Quadrant (Fluzone)		Fluzone Quad (Fluzone)		Fluzone High Dose Quadrant (Fluzone)		Fluzone High Dose Quadrant (Fluzone)	
	Single Shot (1.0 mL)	Single Shot (0.5 mL)	Single Shot (1.0 mL)	Single Shot (0.5 mL)	Single Shot (1.0 mL)	Single Shot (0.5 mL)	Single Shot (1.0 mL)	Single Shot (0.5 mL)
6 months to 16 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 to 64 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65 to 89 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note: A check in the box in each column indicates a vaccine is available. Checkmarks indicate whether a vaccine is available for the age group. Fluzone High Dose Quadrant is not available for use in pregnant women. Fluzone High Dose Quadrant is not available for use in pregnant women aged 70-89 years. Fluzone High Dose Quadrant is not available for use in pregnant women aged 70-89 years. Fluzone High Dose Quadrant is not available for use in pregnant women aged 70-89 years. Fluzone High Dose Quadrant is not available for use in pregnant women aged 70-89 years.

[ATAGI statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2024 | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

Why do we have a program?

- Influenza is the most common vaccine-preventable disease in Australia. It is a common cause of hospitalisation and death in Australia
- In 2023, there were 21,329 influenza cases notified, this is similar to pre-COVID figures (23,403 in 2019) (WANIDD data)
- While influenza affects people of all ages, notification rates are highest in children aged less than 10 years of age.
- Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over, unless contraindicated.

2023 influenza vaccination coverage, by age group and state

Influenza vaccination % coverage* - by jurisdiction - all people

	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	AUS
6 mo - < 5 yrs	50.0	26.8	32.0	23.9	28.0	27.3	32.9	32.2	28.3
5 - < 15 yrs	24.4	14.9	17.1	14.7	15.6	18.6	16.2	14.1	16.1
15 - < 50 yrs	32.7	20.6	24.8	20.4	25.0	21.7	24.7	21.9	22.4
50 - < 65 yrs	46.1	34.1	38.5	36.1	40.7	37.4	44.5	27.2	36.8
≥ 65 yrs	67.3	60.3	64.0	63.5	68.1	64.3	70.1	36.3	63.1

Influenza vaccination % coverage* - by jurisdiction - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	AUS
6 mo - < 5 yrs	30.2	18.4	21.7	16.8	16.7	19.6	27.0	36.0	19.7
5 - < 15 yrs	17.1	12.9	12.7	12.9	12.4	15.3	15.2	22.4	14.1
15 - < 50 yrs	23.5	16.9	19.3	17.5	19.3	17.8	20.9	30.8	19.2
50 - < 65 yrs	43.6	39.5	40.1	38.8	41.1	36.7	50.4	44.5	40.0
≥ 65 yrs	66.8	64.3	64.6	61.0	61.6	55.2	74.9	48.3	61.4

Source NCIRS: * Coverage calculated using vaccinations given 01 Mar - 31 Aug 2023 (inclusive) AIR data as at 03 Sep 2023.

Health Professionals Role

- Education and Training
- Timely vaccine ordering / administration
- Promote accurate information to counter mis and dis information – collaborate with other services / community organisations
- Access
- Opportunistic vaccination
- Helping to assess priority groups and eligibility – identify those high risk groups
- Monitoring and Reporting (AIR, WAVSS)

Embargoed Information

- Free Flu Vaccine Program - May /June 2024
- Provide state funded influenza vaccines for people aged 12 to 64 years via GPs, AMSs and community pharmacies
- Expand eligible provider groups to include nurse practitioner clinics and corporate vaccination services
- Not reimburse GPs, AMSs or community pharmacies for privately purchased influenza vaccines



WA Immunisation Schedule

Seasonal influenza

Age	Vaccine brand(s)	Important information
6 Months to <5 Years	Vaxigrip®Tetra, Fluarix® Tetra	For children <9 years or persons with MRC, 2 doses required 1 month apart in the first year they receive influenza vaccine. One dose annually in subsequent years. For information on specified MRC see Immunisation Handbook or annual ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccines
≥5 Years to Year 6*	FluQuadri®	
5 Years to <65 Years Aboriginal and/or MRC	Afluria® Quad, FluQuadri®, Vaxigrip®Tetra, Fluarix® Tetra	
Vulnerable cohorts* 12 to <65 Years	FluQuadri®	For non-NIP eligible residents in congregate living and people experiencing homelessness.
Pregnancy	Afluria® Quad, FluQuadri®, Vaxigrip®Tetra, Fluarix® Tetra	Each pregnancy, any trimester
≥65 Years	Fluad® Quad	Preferentially use adjuvanted QIV
WA Health staff**	Fluarix® Tetra, FluQuadri®	For ≥65 years use Fluad® Quad

*Refers to WA State-funded Programs.

**Refers to all persons attending WA Health staff influenza vaccination services.

The term '**Aboriginal**' is inclusive of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

MRC refers to people with medical risk conditions. Refer to the current online edition of The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for all medical risk conditions, recommendations and timing of doses.

Persons aged <20 years can catch-up scheduled vaccines, refer to [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for timing of doses.

Vaccine Brands & Related Program

2024 Government funded influenza vaccines (WA)						
Cohort	Program/Brand	Vaxigrip Tetra	Fluarix Tetra	Flucelvax Quad	FluQuadri	Fluad Quad
All children 6 months to <5 years	NIP	✓	✓			
All primary school children 5 to 11 years	State				✓	
At risk persons 5 to <65 years	NIP	✓	✓	✓		
Free Influenza Program May and June 2024 - 12 to <65 years	State				✓	
All adults ≥65 years	NIP					✓
Review the WA Immunisation Schedule (at risk persons includes ATSI, pregnant women, MRC)						
All government funded vaccines have no latex present. All are needles presentation except Fluarix Tetra.						
WA Health Staff only (HCW)	State		✓		✓	✓

Authority to immunise

- Structured Administration Supply Arrangement (SASA)
 - RN, EN, Pharmacist, AHP, RM
- **AIR** reporting: please ensure all doses are reported in a timely manner

Education requirements to administer Influenza vaccines

Immunisation Provider group	Education Requirements
Registered and Enrolled Nurses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AHPRA 2. Online WA Health Immunisation Update and Influenza module
Registered Midwives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AHPRA. 2. Online WA Health Immunisation Update and Influenza module
Aboriginal Health Practitioners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AHPRA. 2. WA Health/AHCWA Immunisation course 3. Online WA Health Immunisation Update and Influenza module
Pharmacists	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AHPRA. 2. Immunisation course approved by the CEO of the Department of Health or HESA 3. Online WA Health Immunisation Update and Influenza module

[Educational Requirements for Immunisation Provision \(health.wa.gov.au\)](http://health.wa.gov.au)

Dashboards

- [Influenza immunisation data | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)
- [Virus WAtch \(health.wa.gov.au\)](#)

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Influenza vaccination % coverage* - by jurisdiction - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

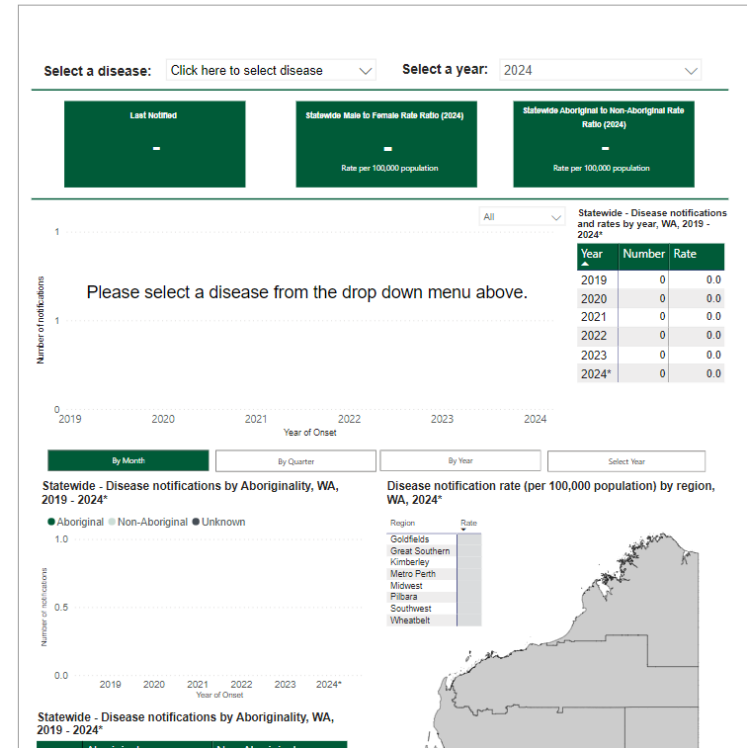
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Coverage data in these tables may differ slightly from estimates published elsewhere due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or the AIR data being used in the calculation having been downloaded on different dates.



Notifiable infectious disease dashboard



[Notifiable infectious disease dashboard \(health.wa.gov.au\)](#)

[Influenza vaccination coverage data | NCIRS](#)

Subscribe to Vaccine Updates

- You can find more information at [Immunisation provider information and resources \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/immunisation-provider-information-and-resources).



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Home > Immunisation provider information and resources

Immunisation provider information and resources

Vaccine Updates (e-newsletter subscription and recent editions)

Vaccine Updates gives immunisation providers important information, news and changes to immunisation programs and vaccines in Western Australia.

It is important that immunisation providers subscribe to [Vaccine updates \(external site\)](#) to keep up-to-date.

See recent editions of [Vaccine updates \(external site\)](#).

Other Resources

- [2024 influenza immunisation program health professional toolkit \(ZIP 65.2MB\) – note large file size](#)
- Healthcare providers can browse and order a selection of WA Department of Health immunisation publications from the [Quickmail Publication Ordering System \(external site\)](#). This is a free bulk ordering service.

Healthy WA - consumer websites

- [Influenza \(flu\) vaccine \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.healthyswa.wa.gov.au/influenza)

WA health – provider websites

- [Influenza immunisation \(health.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/influenza)
- [ATAGI advice on administering seasonal influenza vaccines in 2024](#)



Primary school-aged children

pr 5



Aboriginal people/
Children under 5

Aboriginal people

Aboriginal people

Pregnant people



2024 RSV infant immunisation program

The below 4 cohorts are eligible for nirsevimab immunisation under this program.

- From 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024, nirsevimab will be offered:
 - as a catch-up program for babies born from 1 October 2023 to 30 April 2024
 - to all Aboriginal children born from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2024
 - to some medically at-risk children in their second RSV season born from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023
- In addition:
 - at birth to all babies born between 1 May and 30 September 2024