

Memorandum

To:	QCH Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy Staff
Copies to:	IMPS, QSIS
From:	Queensland Specialist Immunisation Service (QSIS)
Contact no.:	3068 5600
Subject:	Seasonal Influenza Vaccine 2026 – Government Funded Programs (Patients)

Staff have an important role in recommending influenza vaccine to our patients and their families to prevent influenza infection. The influenza vaccine is recommended for persons ≥ 6 months of age. All vaccines available in 2026 are trivalent vaccines (2 x influenza A virus strains & influenza B virus strain).

In 2026 all Queenslanders aged 6 months and over are eligible for [free influenza vaccination](#).

Queensland Funded Programs:

- Nationally funded inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) program – available 6 months age to < 5 years + Medical at risk
- Qld funded live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) FluMist program – available 2-5 years age (inclusive)
- Qld funded inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) program – available 6 – 64 years age

Private Program: intranasally administered live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for 6-17 years of age.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine is available:

1. General Practitioner or local immunisation provider (both funded & private)
2. Outpatients (funded only) – Prescriber to order vaccine on ieMR, vaccine will be dispensed by pharmacy and can be administered by staff as per medication policy.
3. QCH Inpatients (funded only) – Prescriber to order vaccine on ieMR, vaccine will be dispensed by pharmacy and can be administered by staff as per medication policy.
4. QSIS/2g Immunisation centre (funded only) – outpatients and families of patients can present directly to the centre, no appointment necessary. Immunisation Centre is open Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.

Vaccines available at CHQ: correct brand needs to be prescribed in ieMR

- Vaxigrip® (Sanofi) [IM, 0.5mL] vaccine
 - Children aged 6 months to less than 5 years
 - People > 5 years of age to < 65 year age with risk factors including
 - [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
 - [Medical at Risk](#)
 - [Pregnant women](#)
- Flucelvax® (Seqirus) [IM,0.5mL] vaccine
 - People from 5 years of age who are not eligible under national program
- FluMist® (AstraZeneca) [Intranasal, 0.2mL] vaccine
 - Children aged 2 years to 5 years (inclusive) – [with no contraindications](#)
- Fluad® (Seqirus) [IM, 0.5mL] vaccine
 - People aged 65 years and over (staff program & immunisation centre only)

Dosing:

- A single dose of influenza vaccine is recommended annually (ideally prior to influenza season)
- Health children aged 6 months to less than 2 years age required a 2-dose course (> 4 weeks apart) in the first year they receive the vaccine; with a single dose in subsequent years.
- Medically at risk children aged 6 months to less than 9 years age required a 2-dose course (> 4 weeks apart) in the first year they receive the vaccine; with a single dose in subsequent years.
- A 2-dose schedule is recommended for patients in the first-year post-transplant, with single dose in subsequent years.

Timing of vaccination:

- Before onset of influenza season – peak influenza period is typically June to September
- While protection is generally expected to last for the whole season, optimal protection occurs within the first 3-4 months following inactivated vaccine and can be 12 months with live attenuated vaccines.
- It is never too late to vaccinate – vaccination should be offered while influenza viruses are circulating, and vaccine is available.
- Revaccination later in the same year is not routinely recommended, but may benefit some individuals due to personal circumstances, such as travel, transplant.
- For further information see [Influenza \(flu\) | The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- Influenza vaccine can be given on the same day as other vaccines.

Intranasally administered live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV; FluMist®)

- Considered to have equivalent effectiveness to inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV)
- Is contraindicated for people receiving oral salicylate therapy (e.g. aspirin) and those with moderate or severe immunocompromise (see Australia Immunisation Handbook – [Vaccination for people who are immunocompromised](#)); they should receive inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV)
- Can be given at the same time as, or at any interval before or after other vaccines

Staff Influenza Program:

- The funded staff seasonal influenza program is co-ordinated through IMPS commencing end April
- Information about the program will be available at [CHQ Staff Influenza Vaccination Program | Children's Health Queensland Intranet](#)
- The staff program will be providing a trivalent influenza vaccine. Staff can access vaccine through the staff clinics or through community providers. Staff who meet NIP eligibility and are unable to attend the staff clinic can attend 2g immunisation centre.
- Staff over 65 years of age will be able to access the high dose/higher-immunogenicity trivalent influenza vaccine through the staff vaccination program.

Date: 19/03/2026