

# Influenza (Flu) Immunisation Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Influenza (flu) Immunisation service

Influenza (flu) vaccines are given as a needle each year to protect against the most common strains of the virus. If you're eligible, you can get the influenza vaccine at [Logan City Council Immunisation clinics](#) for free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

### Why get immunised against influenza?

[Influenza](#) is a very contagious infection of the airways. It affects people of all ages. Although it can be a mild disease, it can also cause very serious illness in otherwise healthy people. It can require hospitalisation and can cause death.

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect you from serious disease caused by influenza.

By getting vaccinated against influenza, you can also help protect other people, especially people who are too sick or too young to be vaccinated. The more people who are vaccinated in your community, the less likely the disease will spread.

### Who should get immunised against influenza?

Yearly influenza vaccination is recommended for people aged 6 months and over. Anyone who wants to protect themselves against influenza can talk to their immunisation provider about getting immunised.

The following people are more at risk of complications from influenza and are eligible for annual influenza vaccination free under the National Immunisation Program:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- People aged 6 months or over who have medical conditions that mean they

have a [higher risk of getting serious disease](#)

- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- People aged 65 years or over.

The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) includes more information about [specific groups](#) who should get immunised against influenza.

All other individuals not included in the categories above can purchase the vaccine for \$10

As the influenza vaccine only contains minute traces of egg protein, people with an egg allergy, including a history of [anaphylaxis](#), can be safely vaccinated with influenza vaccines. If you have an egg allergy please discuss this with your immunisation provider.

People should not receive the flu vaccine if they have experienced [anaphylaxis](#) after a previous dose of any influenza vaccine or [anaphylaxis](#) after any component of an influenza vaccine.

Aged care workers may also be required to get the flu vaccine. See [Advice and resources for aged care workers](#) for information.

### Where can you get an influenza immunisation?

Influenza immunisations are available at [Logan City Council Immunisation clinics](#).

### How do you get immunised against influenza?

Influenza vaccines available in Australia are given as a needle. It is important to get the right vaccine for your age. Your immunisation provider can tell you which vaccine they will use for you or your child's influenza immunisation.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration website provides [product information and consumer medicine information](#) for each vaccine available.

### **When should you get the influenza vaccine?**

Annual immunisation is recommended as the influenza virus is constantly changing, and the vaccine changes accordingly.

Getting vaccinated in autumn is recommended. This provides protection in time for the peak influenza season (usually in winter in most parts of Australia). However, it is never too late to vaccinate since influenza can circulate in the community all year round.

### **What if I have had a COVID-19 vaccine, or I have an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine?**

It is currently not recommended to have an influenza vaccine with a COVID-19 vaccine on the same day. An interval of at least 14 days between a dose of influenza vaccine and a dose of COVID-19 vaccine is advised.

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines please visit the [Queensland Health COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage.

### **When are influenza vaccines available?**

Seasonal influenza vaccines under the NIP are available at all [Logan City Council Immunisation clinics](#) from April 2021.

### **What are the possible side effects of influenza immunisation?**

You may experience minor side effects following vaccination. Most reactions are mild

and last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems.

Common side effects of influenza vaccines include:

- pain, redness, swelling or hardness where the needle went in
- fever, tiredness, body aches.

Talk to your immunisation provider about possible side effects of the influenza vaccines, or if you or your child have side effects that worry you.

### **Do I need to pay for influenza immunisation?**

Vaccines covered by the NIP are free for people who are eligible. See the [NIP Schedule](#) to find out which vaccines you or your family are eligible to receive.

If you are not eligible for a free vaccine, you may need to pay for it. [Logan City Council Immunisation clinics](#) offer Influenza vaccines for those people not eligible for a free vaccine for \$10.

### **More information**

- [Influenza resources](#)
- [Immunisation throughout life](#)
- [NIP Schedule](#)
- [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance](#)

### **More Information:**

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