

IMMUNISATION FAST FACTS



24 FEB 2021

Welcome to the first edition of Auckland PHO's Immunisation Fast Facts. As 2021 is going to be a busy vaccination year for general practice, we will be publishing regular Immunisation Fast Facts every second Wednesday, or more often, to ensure information is consolidated and easy for busy general practice teams to refer to.

If you have any questions about any of the topics in these Fast Facts, contact Shanaz Khan, Immunisation Services Coordinator for Auckland PHO – shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz

Cold Chain

Recently, several practices have experienced cold chain issues and with the increased vaccination focus, it is a good time to review and update your Cold Chain Policies.

Troubleshooting Guide

Issue	What to Do
<p>Vaccine temperatures are recorded outside required temperature range (below +2°C or above +8°C) *</p> <p>*When one-off temperature variations of up to 12°C for less than 30 minutes occur for known reasons (e.g., stocktake)</p> <p>No need to notify the immunisation/cold chain coordinator; however, you must document the variations in your records</p>	<p><u>Quarantine the vaccines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label and quarantine all the vaccines involved. Ensure the vaccines are kept within the required temperature range of +2°C to +8°C. Seek alternative storage arrangements, if required, as per your cold chain policy. Communicate with colleagues to ensure the vaccines are not used until further notice. Document the incident. <p><u>Confirm and define the incident</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the refrigerator temperature records and download information from the data logger to clarify the cold chain before this event. Confirm current refrigerator temperatures. Check the refrigerator's service history to date. <p><u>Collect as much information as possible</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What monitoring has taken place (maximum, minimum and/or current thermometer readings)? For how long were the vaccines stored outside the required +2°C to +8°C range (minutes, hours, or days)? Identify all vaccines stored in the refrigerator, the length of time they were stored, usual stock turnover and expiry dates. Identify any previous events involving these vaccines where the temperature has gone outside the required +2°C to +8°C range. Is it likely that any individuals received a compromised vaccine? <p>Contact your Local Immunisation/Cold Chain Coordinator - Shanaz Khan on 0212466510 -- Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays And on Wednesdays and Fridays - contact Auckland PHO on (09) 3794022</p> <p>Please have with all the available information at hand and we will work alongside you through to resolution.</p> <p>Ensure that you fully document the incident and outcomes.</p>

MMR Catch Up Programme

Many teenagers and young adults missed out on measles, mumps, and rubella immunisation as children. They may not be fully protected from these diseases. Being immunised now is important to protect them and their Family/Whānau and stop future disease outbreaks.

As you know the 15-30 year age group and particularly the priority population - Māori and Pasifka are the focus for this programme. Practices should have received t-shirts and DHB resources as collateral support. If you have not received yours, contact Shanaz.

There is also resource on the HPA website. <https://www.hpa.org.nz/campaign/guardians-of-the-future>

Note: there must be at least a four week gap between the MMR Vaccine and the COVID-19 Vaccine
Screen all patients – see information below under COVID-19 Vaccination

What you can do

- Locate your Practice’s Mōhio **MMR Vaccine** report with the list of NHIs of 15-30 year olds who have not had/had an MMR. These are the lists to recall this cohort.
- Auckland PHO will provide a small amount of funding for texting, based on your priority population and will be in touch with you shortly about this.
 - Here is an example of a text message you could use.
Kia Ora [first name].
Measles is a serious sickness. You can protect yourself, whanau/family and friends by getting a MMR Vaccine to help stop the spread of measles. It’s free. Not sure if you’re immunised against measles? It’s okay to get immunised again.
Call [practice phone] to book an appointment. From nurse [first name], [practice name]

Opportunistic vaccinating for MMR is also recommended. We know that this age group do not regularly attend General Practice because they are generally well, however you may have opportunities when they present for the following:

- Routine screening
- Contraception
- Parents when attending with their babies for the 6-week check
- ACC visit

We will provide practices with status reports so you can chart your progress over the next few months.

2021 Influenza Immunisation Programme

Last year, a record number of people received the influenza vaccine, and we are planning for high demand again this year. The start date for the programme is **14 April 2021 with a two-week prioritisation period for eligible/funded patients** and those at greatest risk.

There will be 3 funded influenza vaccines

Vaccine	14 - 20 April 2021	21 - 27 April 2021	28 April - 31 December 2021
FLUAD Quad	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over
Afluria Quad		Eligible people aged under 65 years (see fightflu.co.nz) including health and other frontline workers aged under 65 years	All people aged under 65 years – eligible and non-eligible
Afluria Quad Junior		Eligible children aged 6-35 months	All children aged 6-35 months – eligible and non-eligible

Week 1 of the prioritisation period, we recommend that you focus on adults aged 65 years and over with FLUAD QUAD. **Important in the context of them being ready to receive COVID-19 vaccine**

Week 2 of the prioritisation period, from 21 April, all other eligible patients

From 28 April 2020 - open vaccination to the general population

- Influenza supply is continuous, and will be monitored to avoid supply issues experienced previously
- Pre-order date for Influenza vaccines is yet to be advised
- The influenza vaccination programme runs to 31 December 2021. All groups can be immunised through to December.
- Funding for immunising health and disability care workers, will be made available. Full details yet to be released.

Needles

- None of the vaccines will be supplied with needles. Adequate supplies of needles have been secured.
- Needles must be purchased separately from EBOS or pharmacy wholesalers and will be available to **order from 15 March** and will be distributed in the lead up to the programme start date.
- Two different needles for Afluria Quad/Afluria Quad Junior and FLUAD® QUAD are available. Pharmacodes for each will be supplied at the same time as the ordering details for the influenza vaccine.

Note: there must be spacing of at least two weeks between receiving COVID-19 and an influenza vaccine

Reference: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/influenza>

COVID-19 Vaccination

Information is subject to change; this is correct at time of publishing.

Comirnaty® is the Pfizer vaccine has now been licenced by Medsafe
<https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/c/comirnatyinj.pdf>

The online Immunisation Handbook 2020 has been updated to include the new COVID-19 chapter:
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/5-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#keyinfo23>

Comirnaty is a 2 dose regime, given IM, separated by at least 21 days.

Storage/cold chain process: -70°C, then 2-8°C for 5 days. Multi-dose vial containing 5 -6 doses of 0.3ml. Vaccines must be used within 6hrs of reconstitution.

It is unclear if general practice will receive any of this stock due to the complex cold chain and management guidelines for use.

Q&A's are located on the IMAC COVID-19 webpage <https://www.immune.org.nz/covid-19-general-information>

There will be a requirement for mandatory training for COVID-19 vaccinators and the new COVID-19 Immunisation register (CIR). There will be separate modules for each vaccine (approx. 2-3 hours), and one hour on CIR, all available free of charge.

These modules will be made available as per MOH roll out and stock distribution. Training modules will be available on the IMAC education online platform only.

As many will know Border workers and Quarantine staff are being immunised first. This is being done by a select team who have completed the training. Their learnings will inform and update our knowledge and use of the vaccine and training for the future.

Important COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements for Planning:

- COVID-19 cannot be co-administered with any other immunisation
- COVID-19 vaccination must be separated by **at least 2 weeks from influenza vaccine** and **at least 4 weeks from MMR vaccination**
- Current requirements for post administration wait time is 30 minutes

If you have additional time or know of any healthcare professionals interested in being part of the COVID-19 vaccine delivery, please register your/their interest [here](#)

There will be a requirement also for people with first aid training to support post vaccination observation – they should also register their availability above.